

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE • PLASCENCIA

INVINCIBLE



VOLUME TEN

WHO'S THE BOSS?



image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

WHO'S THE BOSS



CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN
& **CORY WALKER**

image®



writer
ROBERT KIRKMAN

penciler, inker
RYAN OTTLEY

inker
(chapters 5-6)
CLIFF RATHBURN

colorist
(chapters 1-3)
BILL CRABTREE

colorist
(chapters 4-6)
FCO PLASCENCIA

letterer
RUS WOOTON

cover
RYAN OTTLEY & FCO PLASCENCIA

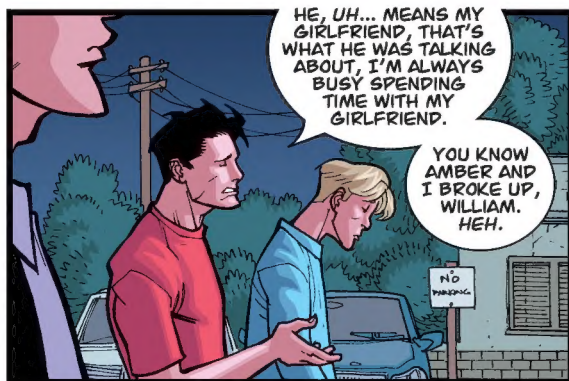
INVINCIBLE, VOL. 10: WHO'S THE BOSS? First Printing. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, California 94704. Image and its logos are © and © 2009 Image Comics Inc. All rights reserved. Originally published in single magazine form as INVINCIBLE #48-53. INVINCIBLE and all character likenesses are TM and © 2009, Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker. All rights reserved. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of the copyright holder. PRINTED IN CANADA

ISBN: 978-1-60706-013-0
www.imagecomics.com
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
Robert Kirkman - Chief Operating Officer
Erik Larsen - Chief Financial Officer
Todd McFarlane - President
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Jim Valentino - Vice-President
ericstephenson - Publisher
Joe Keatinge - PR & Marketing Coordinator
Branwyn Bigglestone - Accounts Manager
Tyler Shainline - Administrative Assistant
Traci Hui - Traffic Manager
Allen Hui - Production Manager
Drew Gill - Production Artist
Jonathan Chan - Production Artist
Monica Garcia - Production Artist
International Rights Representative: Christine Jensen (christine@gfloydstudio.com)



CHAPTER ONE





HEY--WAIT
A MINUTE.
DID WE SAY
SOMETHING?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

I'M
JUST--
OH,
GOD...

I KNOW
YOU GUYS DON'T
KNOW EVERYTHING
THAT HAPPENED TO
ME WHEN THAT
PSYCHO ABDUCTED
ME--YOU HAD TO
SEE SOME OF IT
ON THE NEWS
BUT--

THE THINGS
HE DID TO ME, WHAT
HE TURNED ME INTO--
I ONLY REMEMBER
SOME OF IT, BUT HE
CHANGED ME... I--
I'M BARELY EVEN
HUMAN
ANYMORE.

I KNOW YOU
GUYS CAN'T TELL,
IT'S ON THE INSIDE--
YOU CAN'T SEE IT,
BUT I CAN FEEL IT...
I KNOW IT'S--I
CAN'T SLEEP...
I HAVE
NIGHTMARES.

I'M SORRY,
GUYS--I JUST--
I WASN'T
READY FOR
THIS.

I'M
SORRY.

SO...

THAT WAS
OUR RIDE...
YOU THINK
MAYBE...?

HUH?

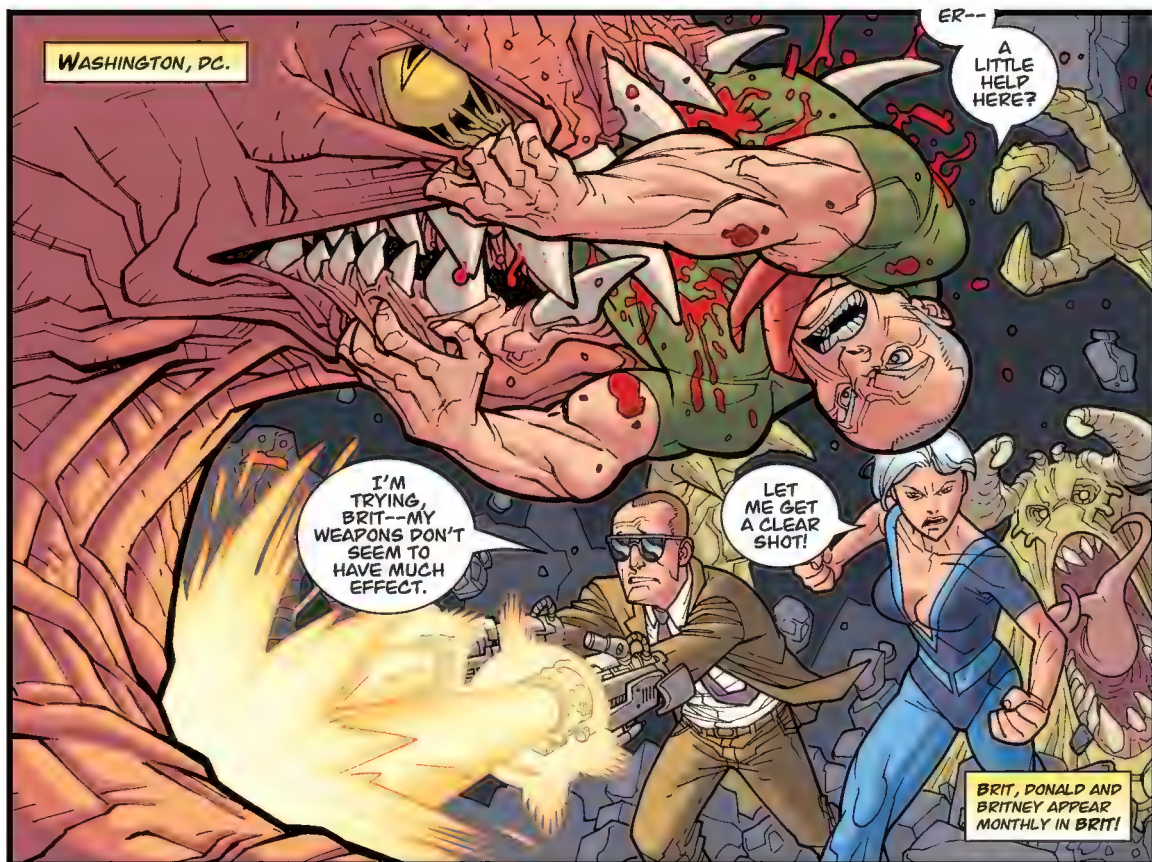
NO. NO
WAY.
YOU CAN
WALK.

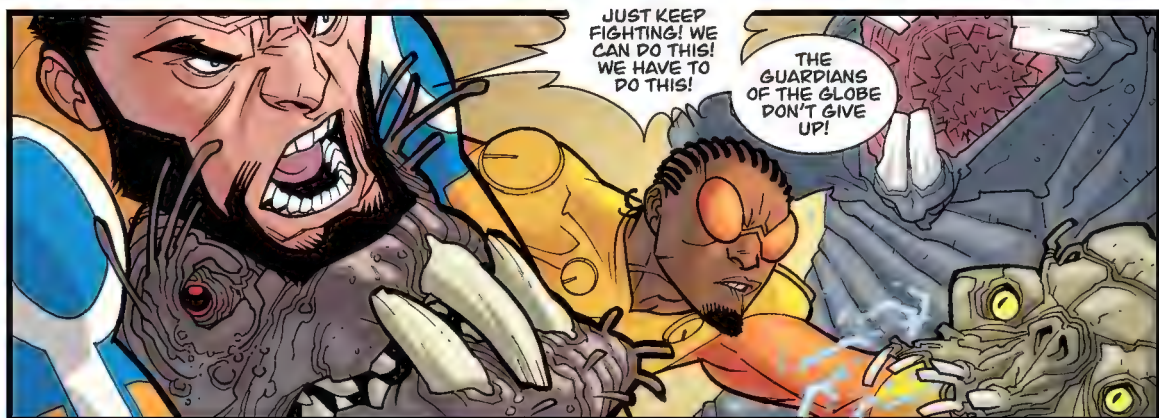
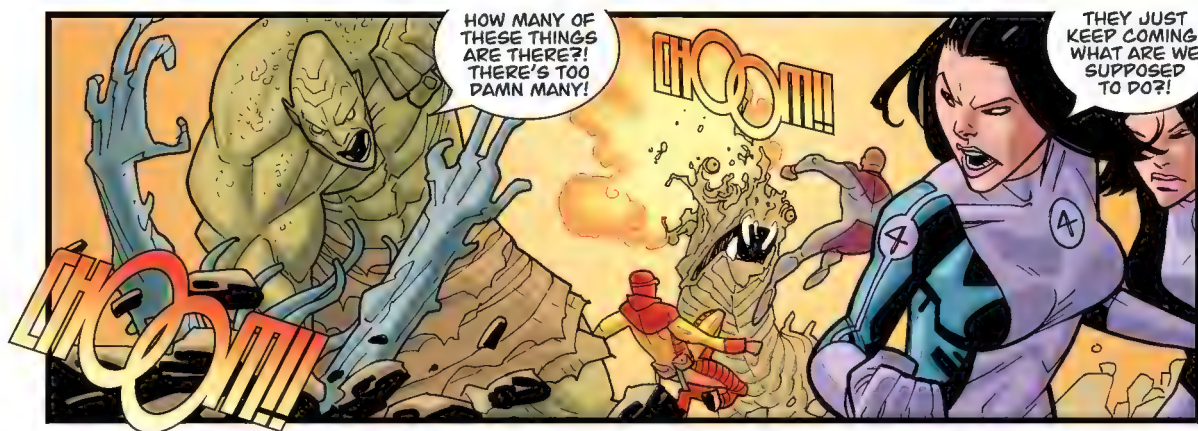
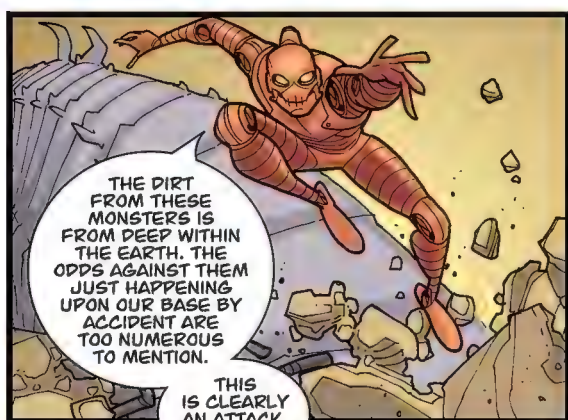
I'VE GOT
SOMETHING
I NEED TO DO,
ANYWAY...
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
PUTTING OFF.

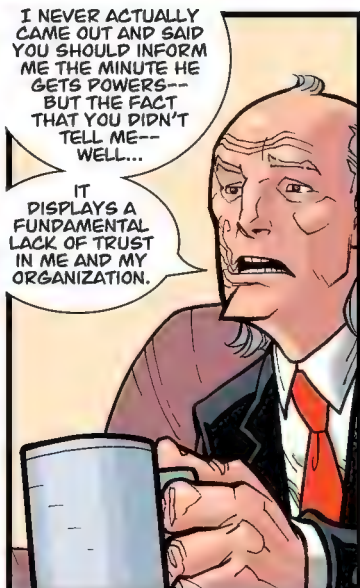


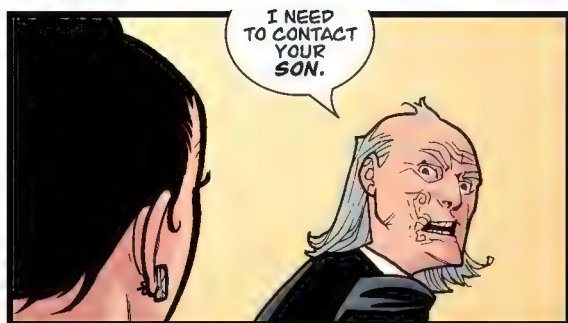
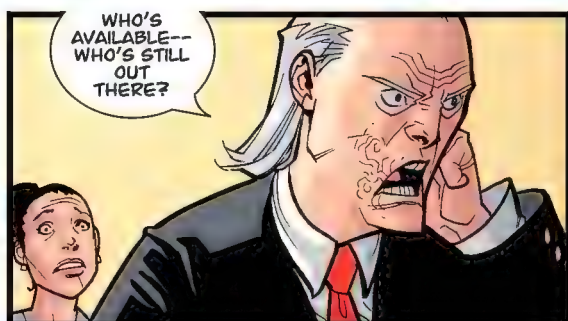
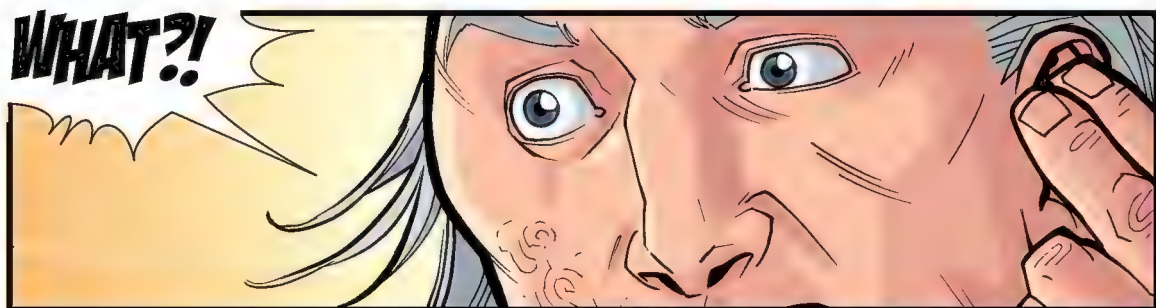
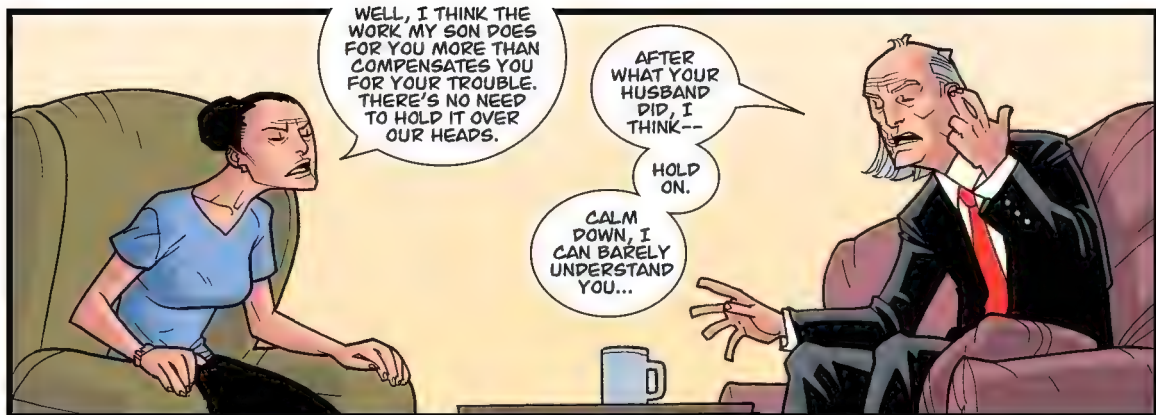












AFRICA.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
HARD IT WAS
FOR ME TO
FIND YOU?

NOT HARD
ENOUGH.





WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT MEANS. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD, I'M KIND OF BUSY, AND I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M READY TO TALK TO YOU JUST YET.

EVE, CAN WE JUST GO SOMEWHERE SO WE CAN TA--

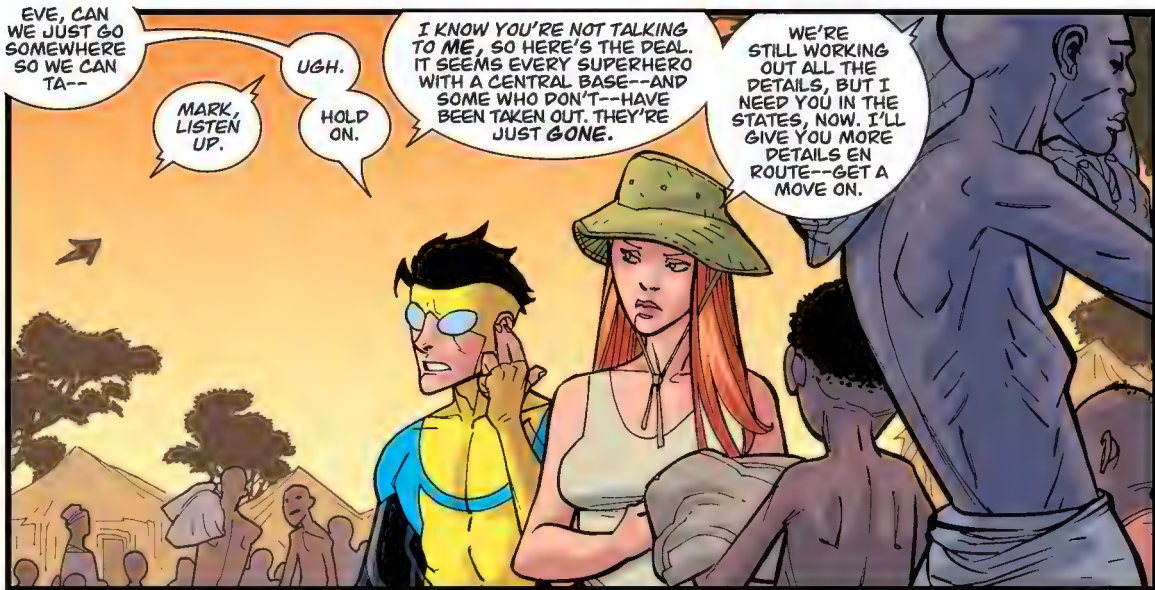
MARK, LISTEN UP.

UGH.

HOLD ON.

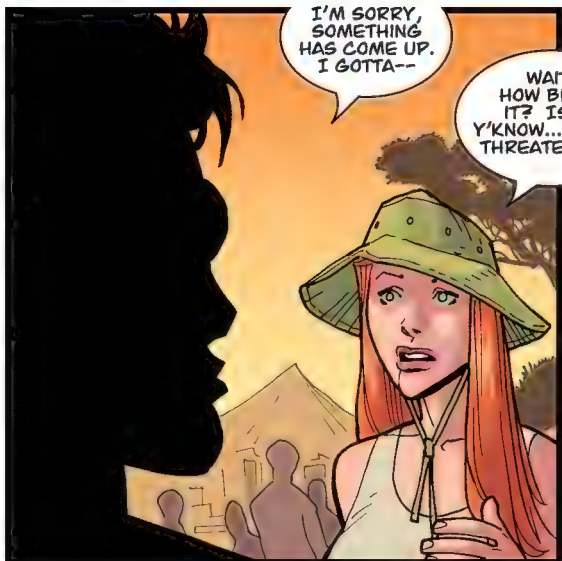
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO ME, SO HERE'S THE DEAL. IT SEEMS EVERY SUPERHERO WITH A CENTRAL BASE--AND SOME WHO DON'T--HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT. THEY'RE JUST GONE.

WE'RE STILL WORKING OUT ALL THE DETAILS, BUT I NEED YOU IN THE STATES, NOW. I'LL GIVE YOU MORE DETAILS EN ROUTE--GET A MOVE ON.



I'M SORRY, SOMETHING HAS COME UP. I GOTTA--

WAIT, HOW BIG IS IT? IS IT, Y'KNOW... EARTH THREATENING?

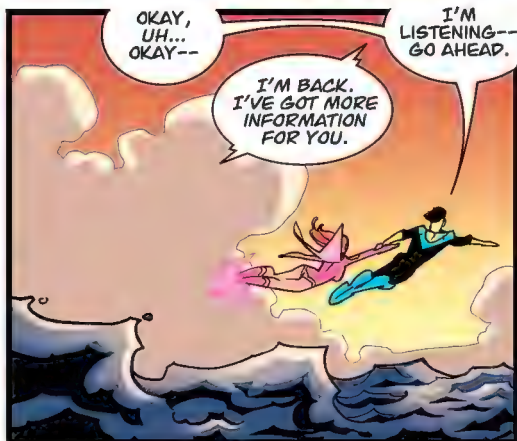
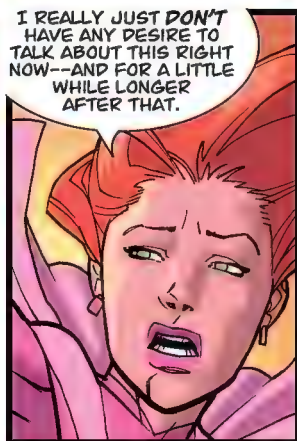


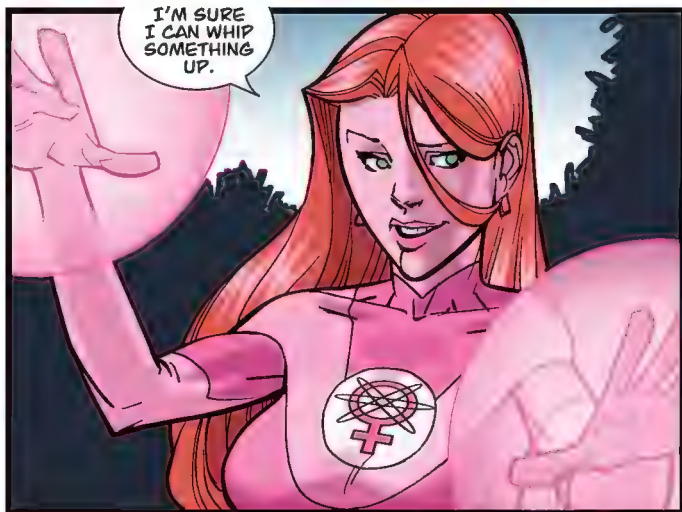
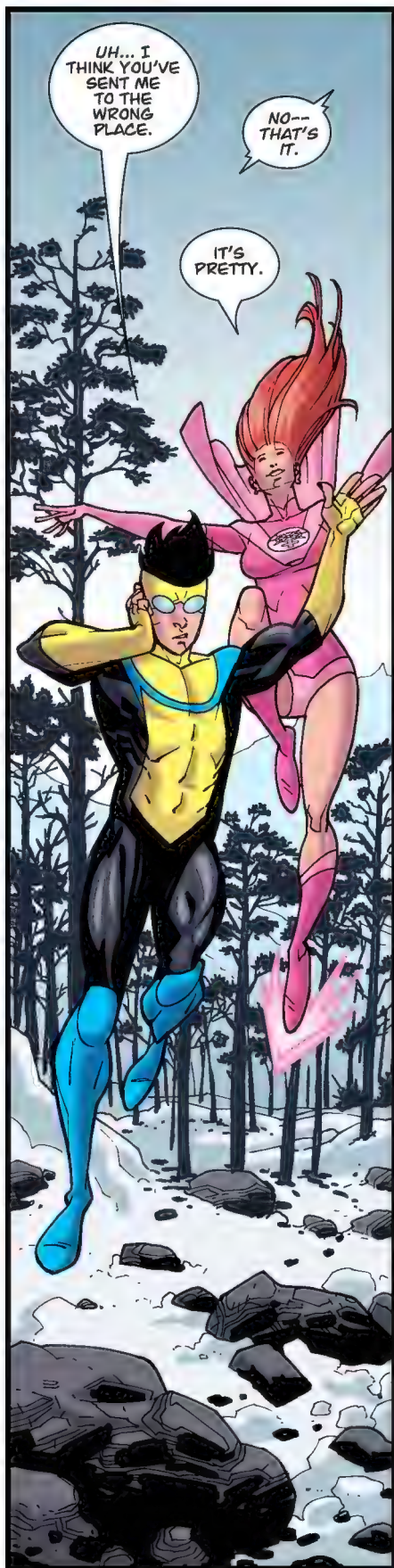
SEEMS PRETTY BAD, YEAH. WHY--DO YOU WANNA HELP?

YEAH, I--I THINK I SHOULD.

C'MON, THEN.









YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING NOW, ARE YOU?!

ARE YOU?!

IT IS YOU WHO LOOK LIKE FOOLS, THIS TIME! IT IS YOU WHO IS LAUGHED AT!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

I'M JUST--I'M BLOWN AWAY BY HOW EASY ALL THIS WAS. ONCE I REALIZED I COULD STILL SPEAK TO THE LEGIONS OF UNDEREARTH--MY PEOPLE... IT ALL CAME TOGETHER.

FOR CREATURES THAT TRAVEL THE CORE OF THE EARTH, COMMUNICATING WITH LITTLE MORE THAN VIBRATION--FINDING YOUR SECRET STRONGHOLDS AND SANCTUARIES WAS CHILD'S PLAY!

I KNEW THAT SOME OF YOU WOULD BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD-- BUT REALLY, THIS STEP OF THE PLAN WAS ONLY MEANT TO THIN YOU OUT!

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET ALL OF YOU!!

ARROGANT JERK!

WE'LL SEE HOW CONFIDENT YOU ARE AFTER--

POOOOM!

IRK!

ACTUALLY-- I MIGHT HAVE A BETTER IDEA TO-- UNGH!

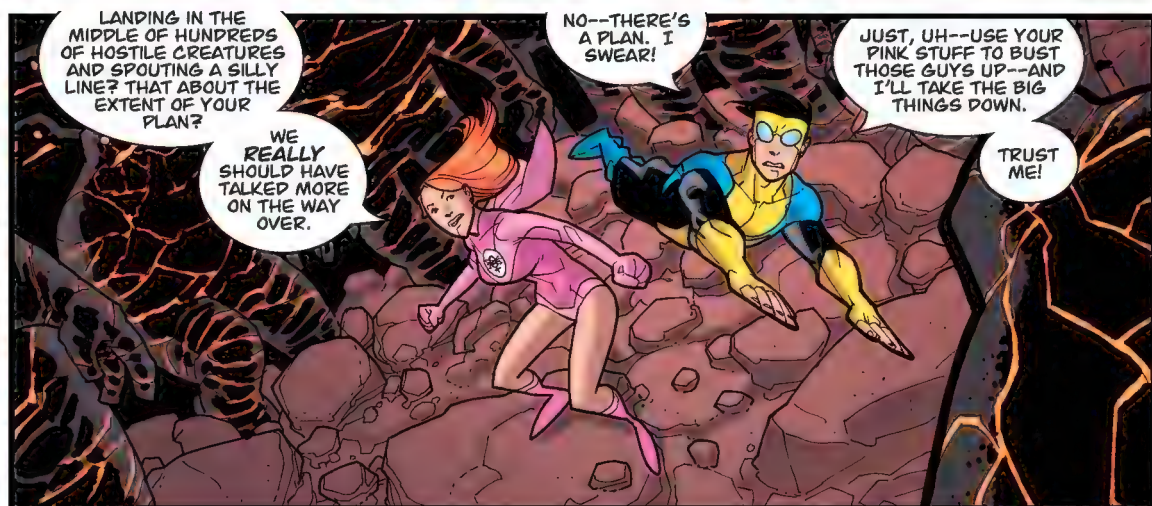
I WOULDN'T HOLD OUT MUCH HOPE FOR ESCAPE IF I WERE YOU. THE SUBSTANCE YOU ARE IN IS VERY STRONG--VERY, VERY STRONG.

TRUE, SOME OF YOU COULD PROBABLY BURST THROUGH--BUT NOT WITHOUT CRUSHING THE PEOPLE ALSO CONTAINED WITHIN YOUR INDIVIDUAL GLOBES.

SO TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION.

SO ESCAPE-- NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE. AND WE'RE MANY MILES BELOW EARTH'S SURFACE--SO THE CHANCES OF A RESCUE ARE--

LET ME JUST SAY I HAVE YOU ALL RIGHT WHERE I WANT YOU.



INVINCIBLE!



IF YOU GO INTO MIST FORM--I THINK I CAN GET US OUT OF HERE!



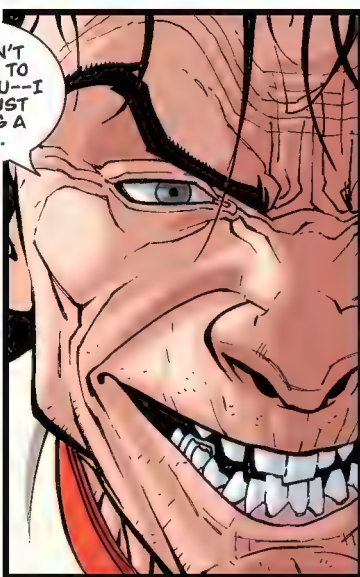
I'M GOING TO WEAR YOUR SKIN AS A TROPHY!



YOU KNOW, SEISMIC... I SEEM TO RECALL YOU PACKING A BIT MORE PUNCH THAN THAT--MAYBE IT'S JUST ME.



I WASN'T TRYING TO HURT YOU--I WAS JUST MAKING A CALL.







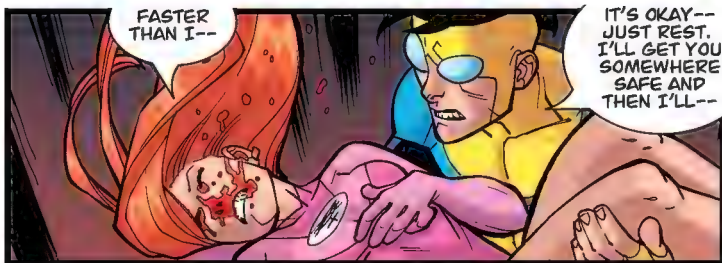
OKAY--DON'T LET THESE THINGS INTIMIDATE US! I CAN DO SOME DAMAGE REAL QUICK.

THE BIGGER THEY ARE THE HARDER THEY--



GAK!

I GOT YOU!



FASTER THAN I--

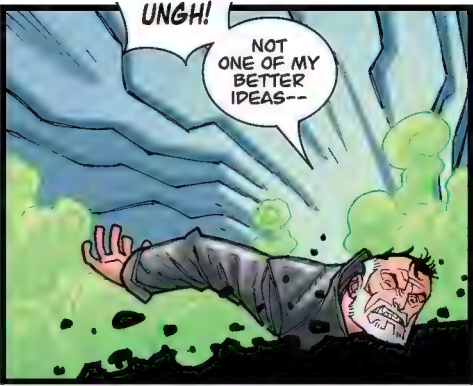
IT'S OKAY--JUST REST. I'LL GET YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE AND THEN I'LL--

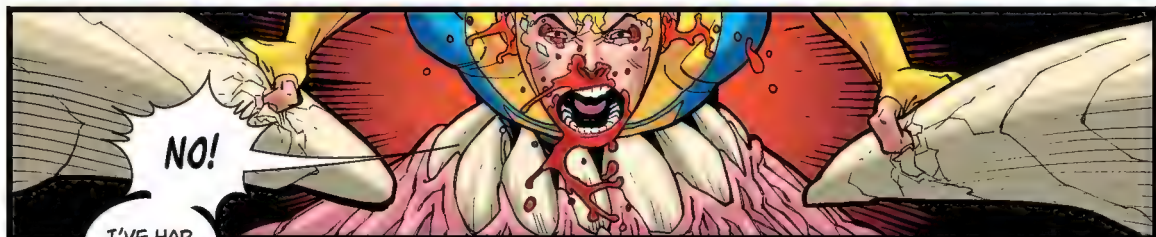
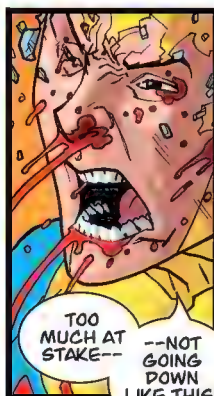


EVE!

I'VE GOT HER, HERO--YOU JUST DO YOUR THING.





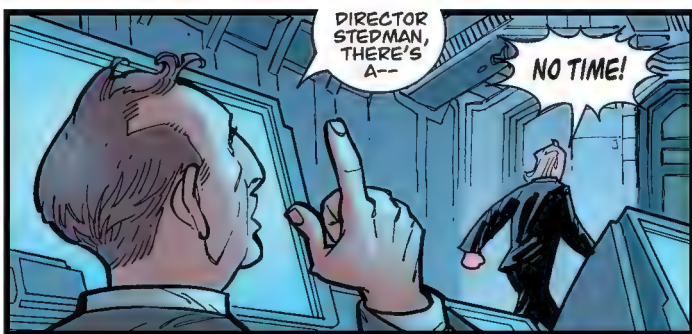
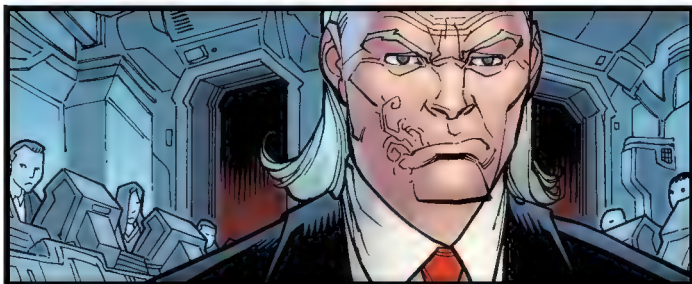
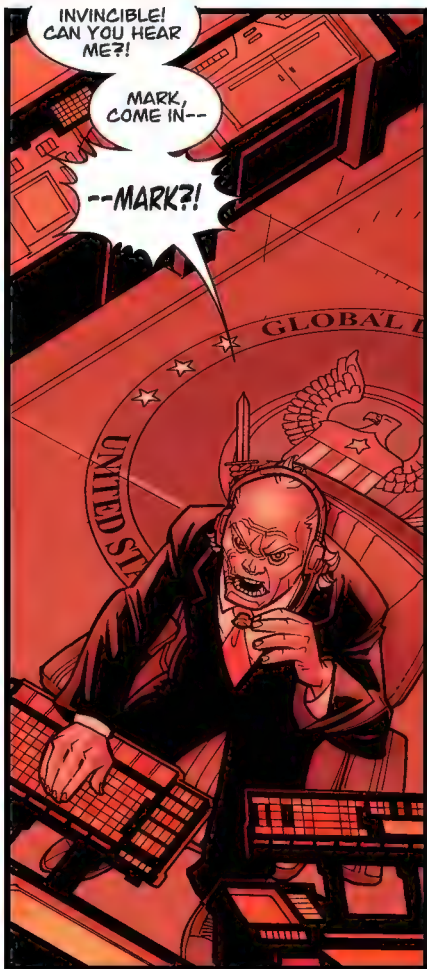
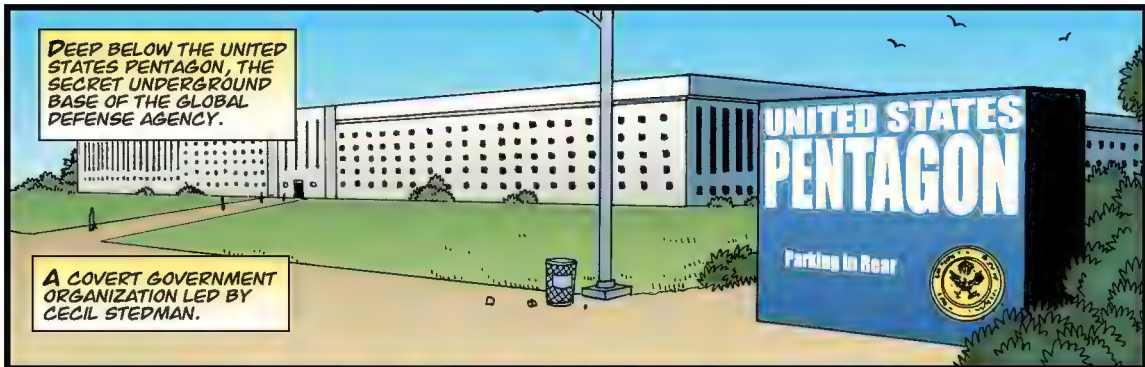


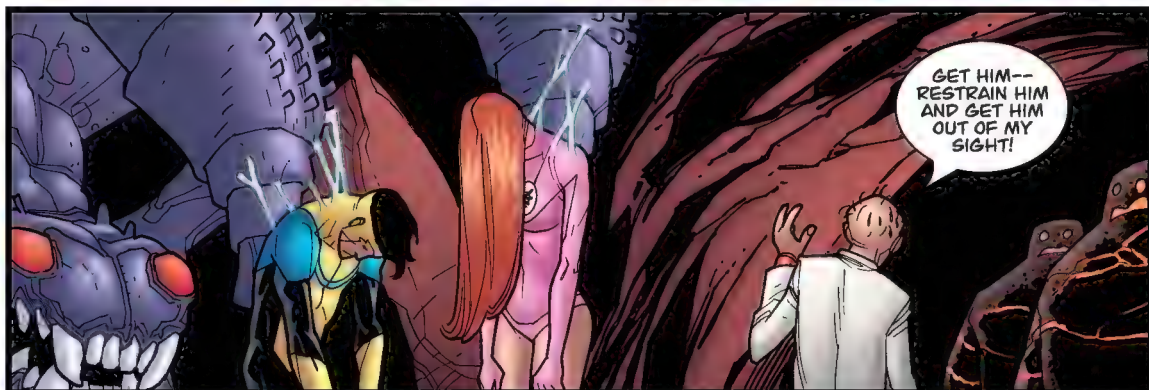
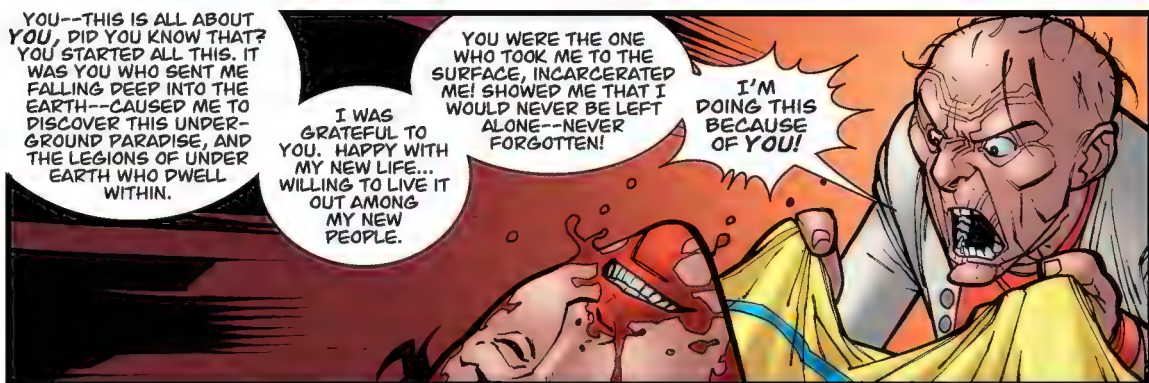


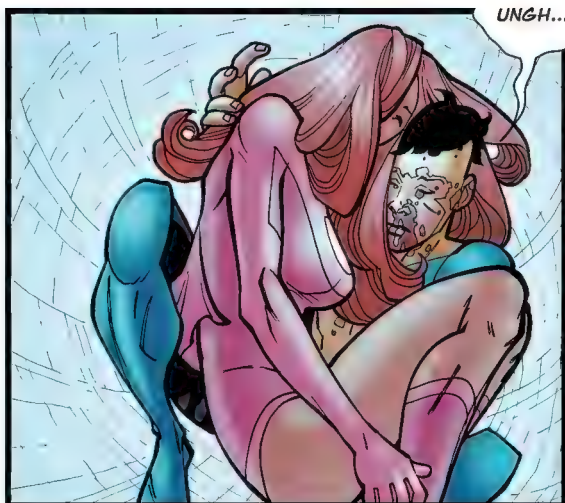


CHAPTER TWO

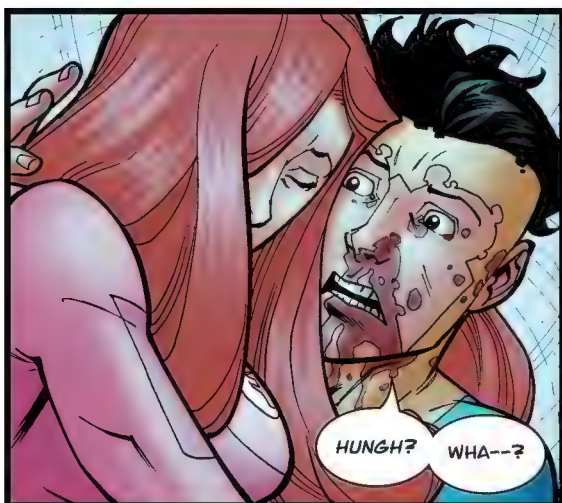




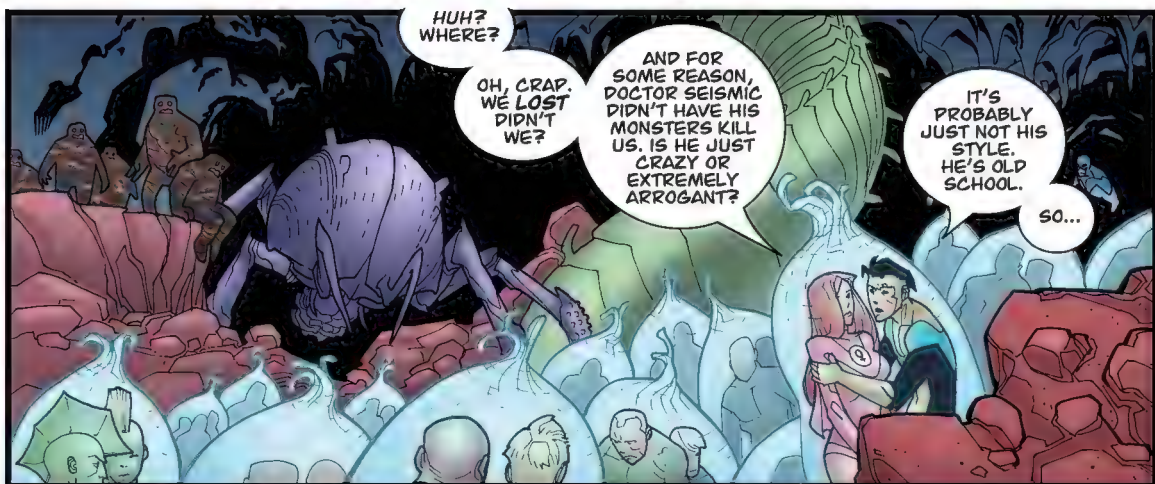




UNGH...



HUNGH? WHA--?



HUH?
WHERE?

OH, CRAP.
WE LOST
DIDN'T WE?

AND FOR
SOME REASON,
DOCTOR SEISMIC
DIDN'T HAVE HIS
MONSTERS KILL
US. IS HE JUST
CRAZY OR
EXTREMELY
ARROGANT?

IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST NOT HIS
STYLE.
HE'S OLD
SCHOOL.

SO...

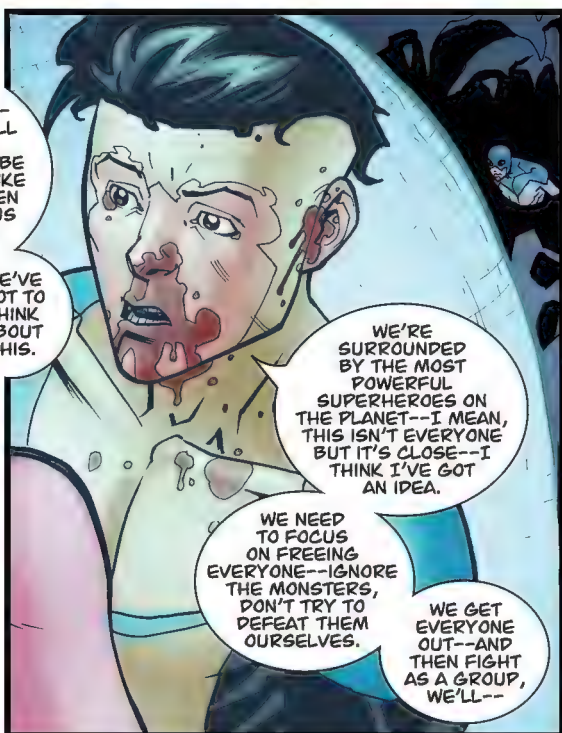


JUST GIVE ME
A MINUTE AND
I'LL HAVE
US OUT OF
HERE.

NO.
WAIT.

WE GET
OUT OF HERE--
THEN WHAT? IT'LL
BE JUST LIKE
BEFORE--WE'LL BE
OVERPOWERED LIKE
BEFORE AND THEN
HE MIGHT PUT US
IN SOMETHING
STRONGER.

WE'VE
GOT TO
THINK
ABOUT
THIS.

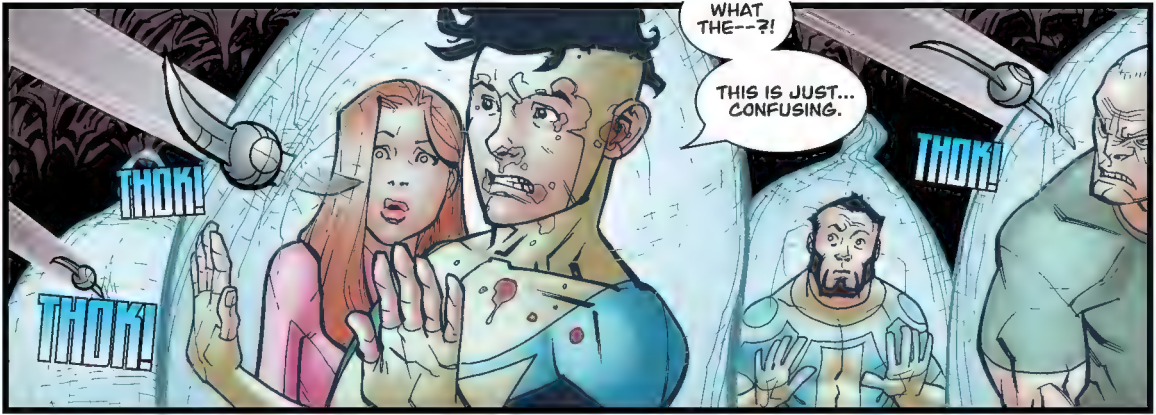


WE'RE
SURROUNDED
BY THE MOST
POWERFUL
SUPERHEROES ON
THE PLANET--I MEAN,
THIS ISN'T EVERYONE
BUT IT'S CLOSE--I
THINK I'VE GOT
AN IDEA.

WE NEED
TO FOCUS
ON FREEING
EVERYONE--IGNORE
THE MONSTERS,
DON'T TRY TO
DEFEAT THEM
OURSELVES.

WE GET
EVERYONE
OUT--AND
THEN FIGHT
AS A GROUP,
WE'LL--







TOO SLOW!



OKAY--NOW THINGS ARE FUN AGAIN!

WROKK!

BE CAREFUL, ANGEL--THIS ISN'T A GAME!



JUST STEP AWAY--AND DUCK.

THINK!

OH, UH... RIGHT.

THANKS.



BOOM!

CRAP!

CRAP!



NO! NOT THIS EASY!

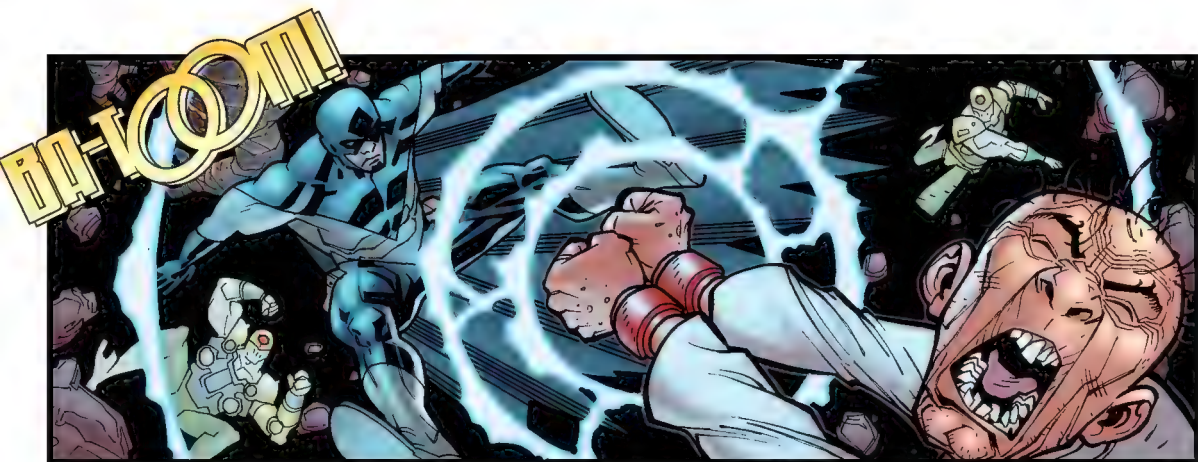
YOU DON'T GET TO WIN THIS EASY!



IT'S NOT EASY!

I JUST MAKE IT LOOK THAT WAY.





THERE'S STILL SOME FIGHT LEFT IN THIS OLD DOG! BUT I'M NO FOOL--I CAN SEE THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

MAYBE THIS IS IT-- MAYBE IT'S ALL BUT OVER. BY WORKING TOGETHER, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DEFEAT MY LEGIONS OF UNDER-EARTH!

BUT IF THIS IS IT, IF I'M GOING DOWN--I'M TAKING EVERY ONE OF YOU WITH ME!

I DON'T THINK SO.

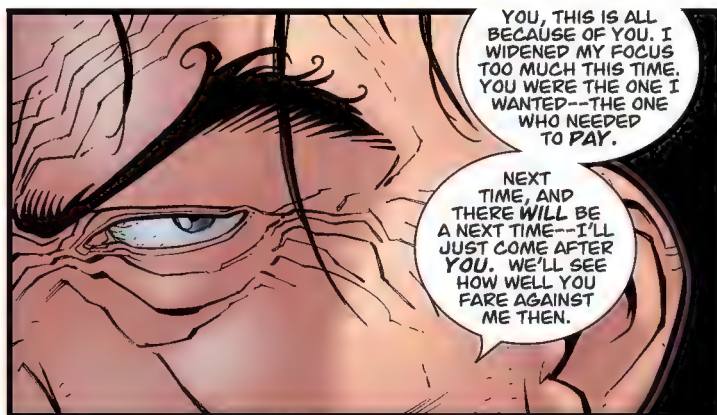


YOU!

YOU THINK YOU'RE FAST ENOUGH TO STOP ME BEFORE I BRING THIS CAVE DOWN ON EVERYONE?



I AM-- AND YOU KNOW I AM.



YOU, THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF YOU. I WIDENED MY FOCUS TOO MUCH THIS TIME. YOU WERE THE ONE I WANTED--THE ONE WHO NEEDED TO PAY.

NEXT TIME, AND THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME--I'LL JUST COME AFTER YOU. WE'LL SEE HOW WELL YOU FARE AGAINST ME THEN.



OLD MAN, ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME PUNCH YOU?



I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU TRY.







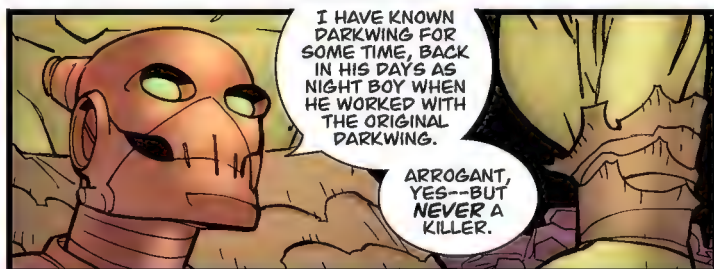


STAND DOWN,
INVINCIBLE!

RIGHT
NOW!



HE--HE
MURDERED PEOPLE.
HE WAS A COLD-
BLOODED KILLER.
WHY DOESN'T
ANYONE KNOW
ABOUT THIS?



I HAVE KNOWN
DARKWING FOR
SOME TIME, BACK
IN HIS DAYS AS
NIGHT BOY WHEN
HE WORKED WITH
THE ORIGINAL
DARKWING.

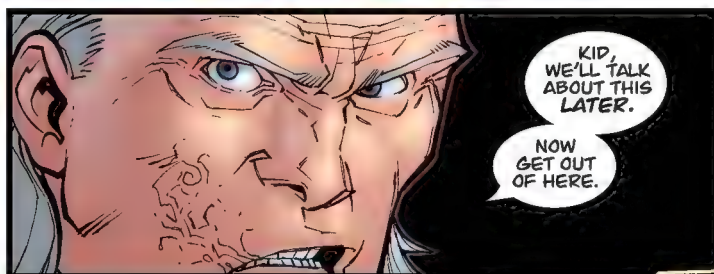
ARROGANT,
YES--BUT
NEVER A
KILLER.



I WAS THERE--I
SAW HIM. WASN'T
THIS ALL OVER THE
NEWS? I THOUGHT
EVERYONE KNEW
ABOUT THIS.

WE'LL
TALK ABOUT
THIS
LATER.

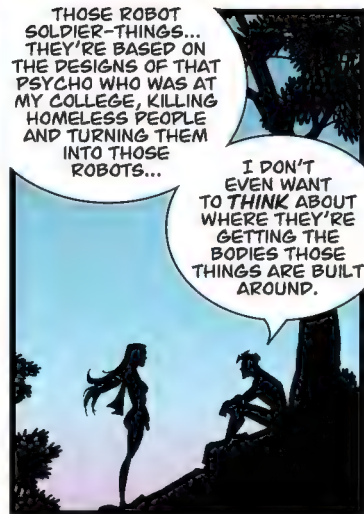
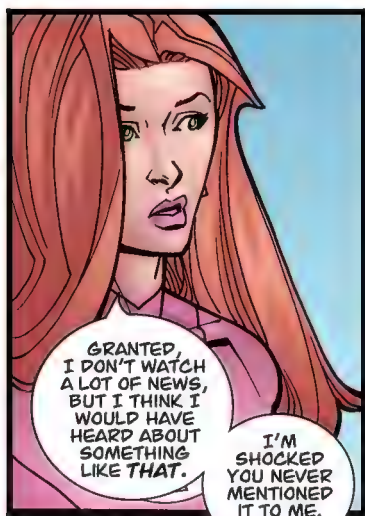
BUT--



KID,
WE'LL TALK
ABOUT THIS
LATER.

NOW
GET OUT
OF HERE.





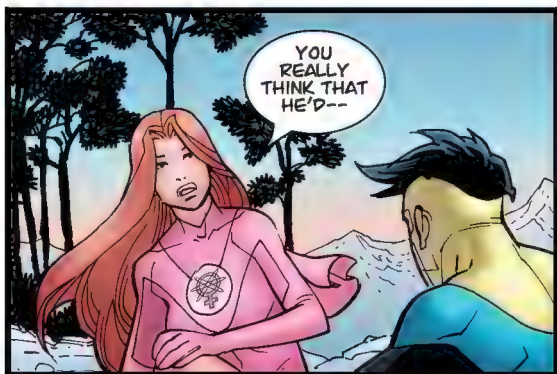
IF THE NEWS HAD BROADCAST ANYTHING ABOUT PARKWING, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE ONLY ONE TO ATTACK ONCE THOSE MONSTERS WERE DEFEATED.

THERE WAS A COVER UP--THE NEWS NEVER WENT PUBLIC.

CECIL STEPMAN HEADS UP THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY--THEY CAN DO ANYTHING IN THE NAME OF "GLOBAL DEFENSE."

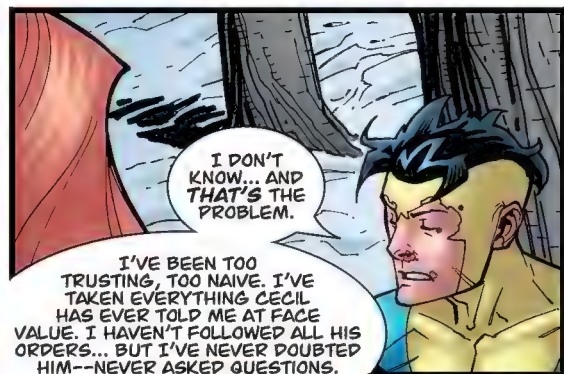


YOU REALLY THINK THAT HE'D--



I DON'T KNOW... AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

I'VE BEEN TOO TRUSTING, TOO NAIVE. I'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING CECIL HAS EVER TOLD ME AT FACE VALUE. I HAVEN'T FOLLOWED ALL HIS ORDERS... BUT I'VE NEVER DOUBTED HIM--NEVER ASKED QUESTIONS.



CAN YOU GET YOURSELF BACK HOME?

YEAH, SURE.

AND LATER-- AFTER I'M DONE, I WANT TO COME VISIT--CLEAR THINGS UP BETWEEN US. I DON'T LIKE THIS... TENSION.

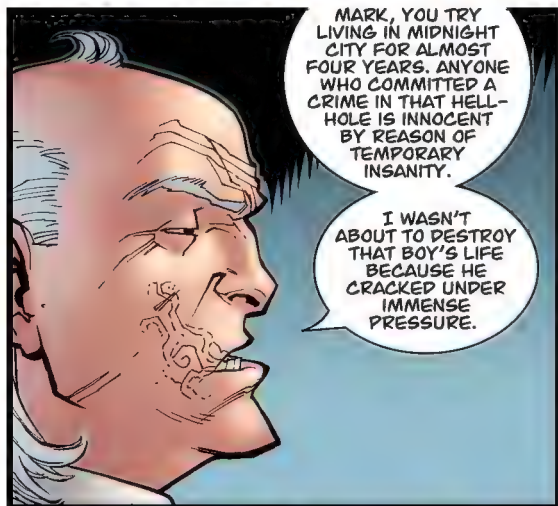
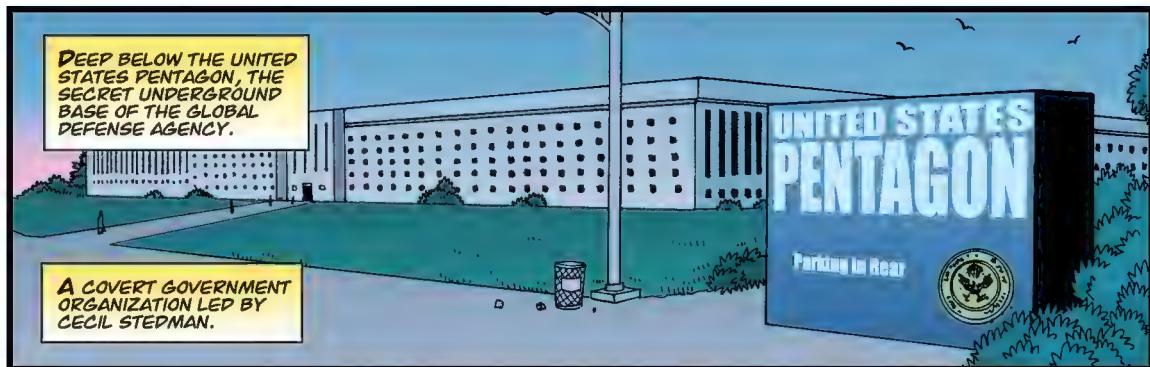
I'D UH, I'D LIKE THAT, MARK. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

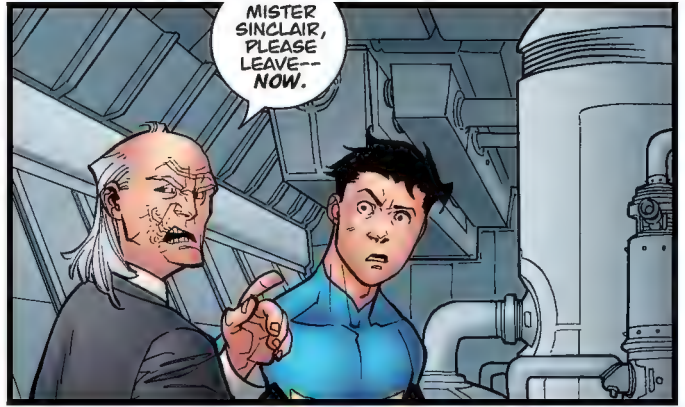


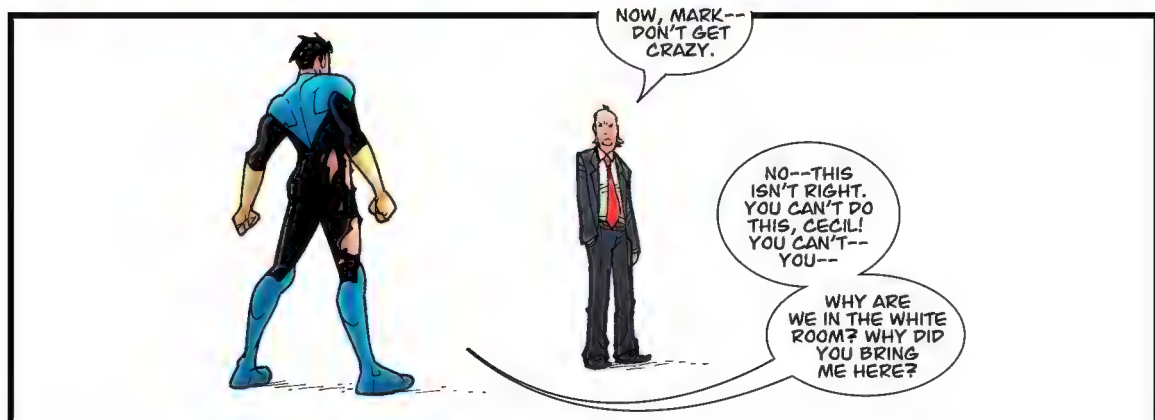
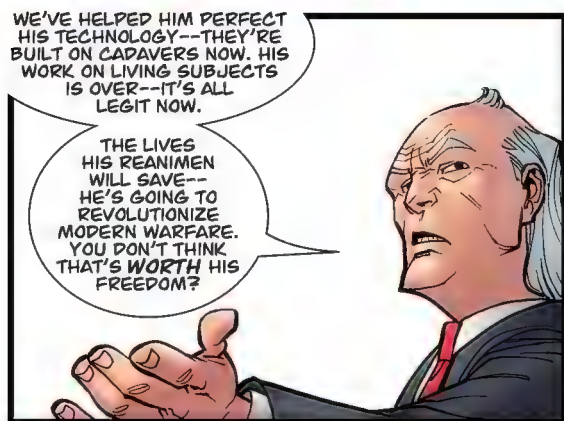
ASK SOME OF THOSE QUESTIONS...

...WHETHER I WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS OR NOT.









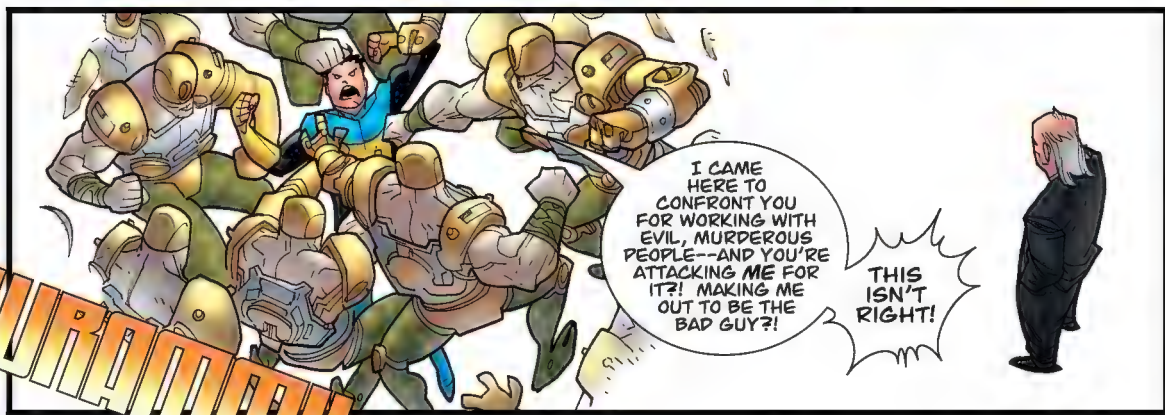
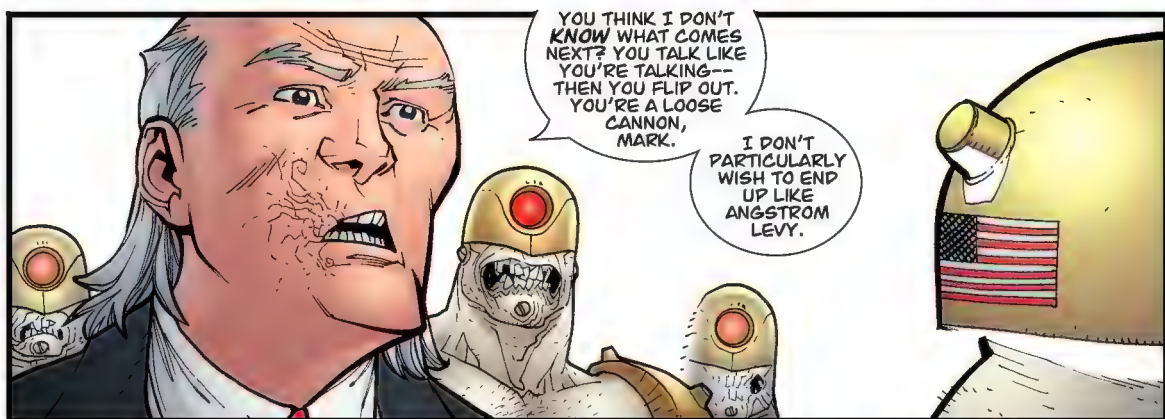
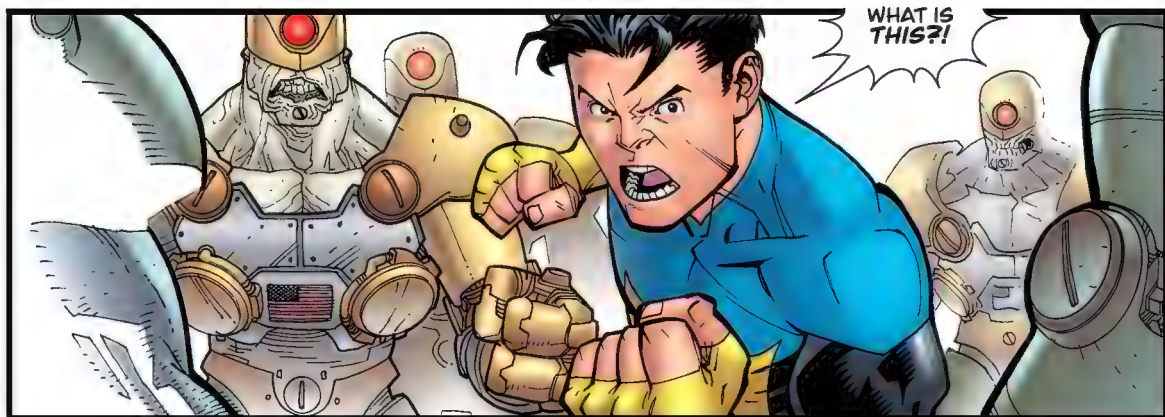
FOR THE
ELEMENT OF
SURPRISE.

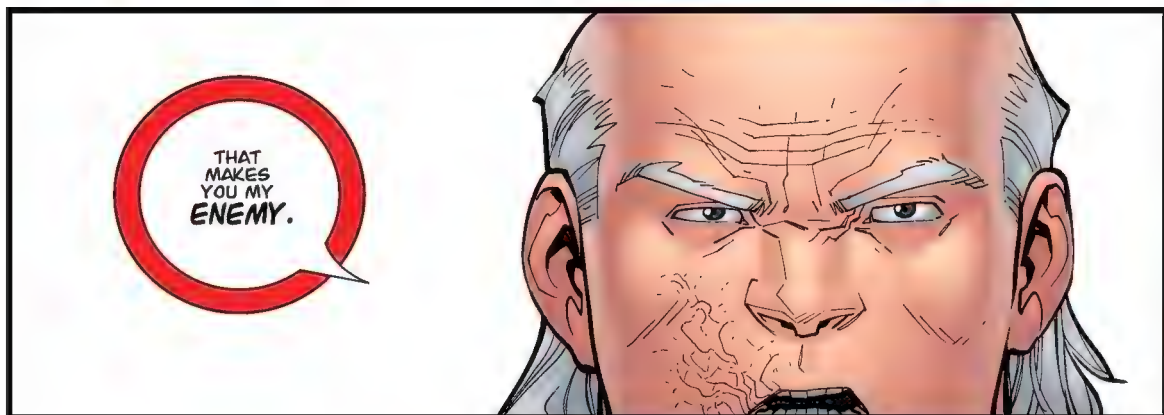
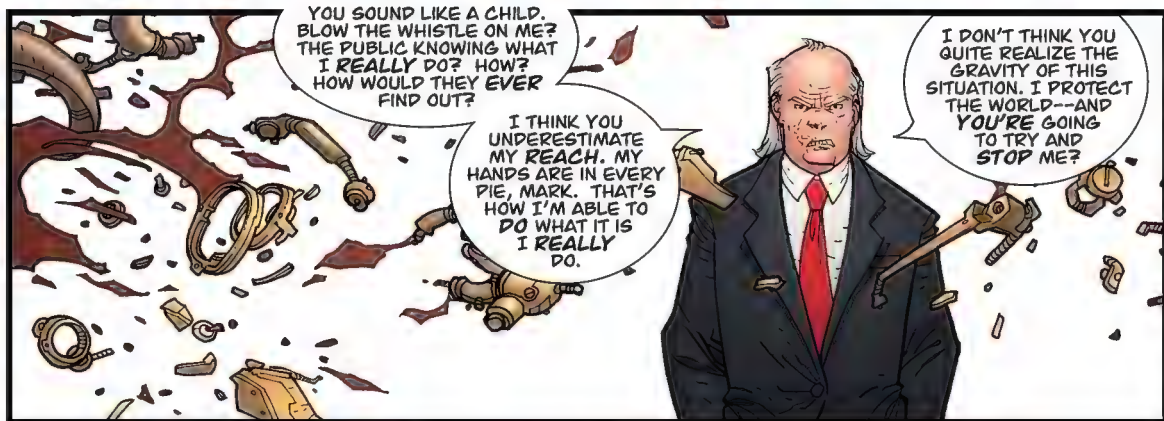
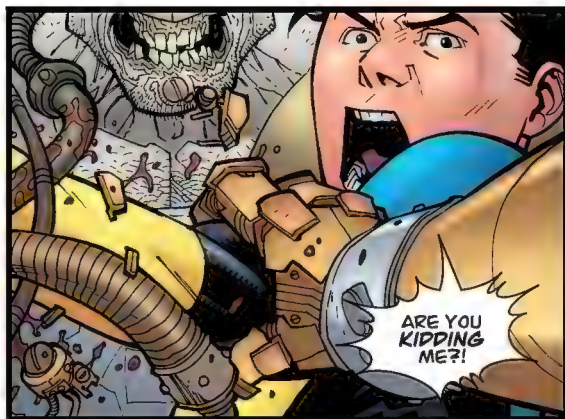




CHAPTER THREE







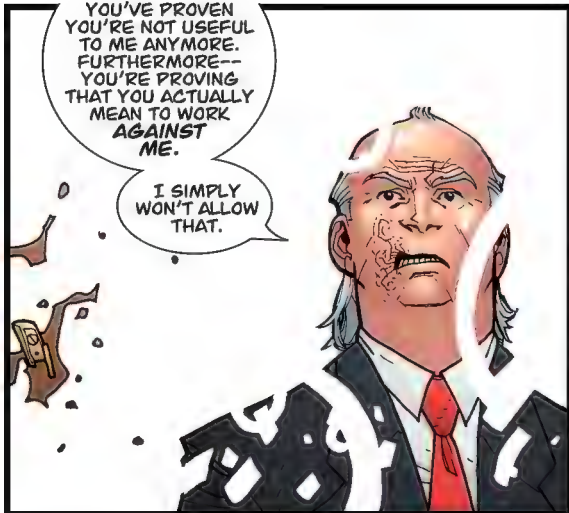
WHAT--I HAVEN'T
KILLED ENOUGH
PEOPLE TO BE
AN ALLY?!



YOU'RE
INSANE!

YOU'VE PROVEN
YOU'RE NOT USEFUL
TO ME ANYMORE.
FURTHERMORE--
YOU'RE PROVING
THAT YOU ACTUALLY
MEAN TO WORK
AGAINST
ME.

I SIMPLY
WON'T ALLOW
THAT.

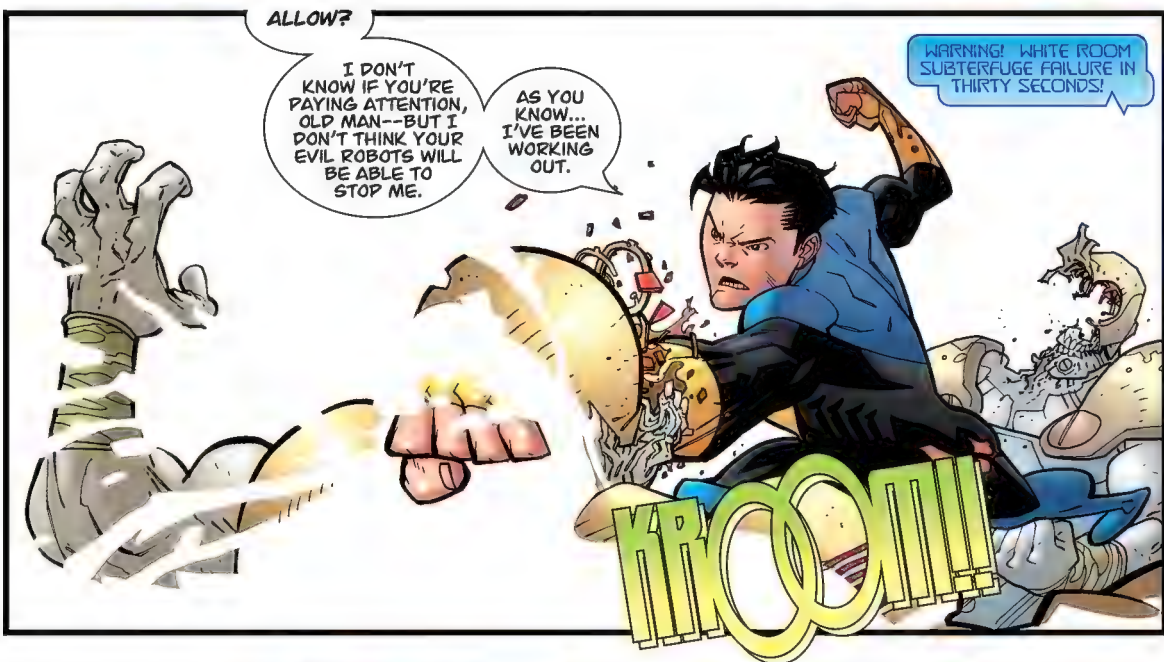


ALLOW?

I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU'RE
PAYING ATTENTION,
OLD MAN--BUT I
DON'T THINK YOUR
EVIL ROBOTS WILL
BE ABLE TO
STOP ME.

AS YOU
KNOW...
I'VE BEEN
WORKING
OUT.

WARNING! WHITE ROOM
SUBTERFUGE FAILURE IN
THIRTY SECONDS!



KROOOON!!!

CRAP.

WARNING! WHITE ROOM
SUBTERFUGE FAILURE IN
FIFTEEN SECONDS!



SO THAT'S IT? IS
THAT ALL OF YOUR
ROBOTS? YOU REALLY
DIDN'T PLAN FOR
THIS DID YOU?

DID YOU
THINK I'D JUST
GIVE UP AND
STEP BACK
IN LINE?

WHITE ROOM
SUBTERFUGE
FAILURE IN THREE...
TWO... ONE...





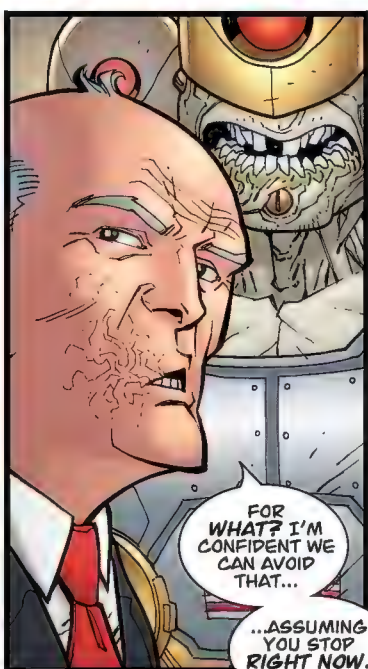
UH...

YEAH,
WE COULD
BE HERE ALL
DAY AT THE
RATE YOU'RE
GOING.

SO WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST GIVE
UP?



THEN
WHAT? ARE
YOU GOING
TO ARREST
ME?



FOR
WHAT? I'M
CONFIDENT WE
CAN AVOID
THAT...

...ASSUMING
YOU STOP
RIGHT NOW.



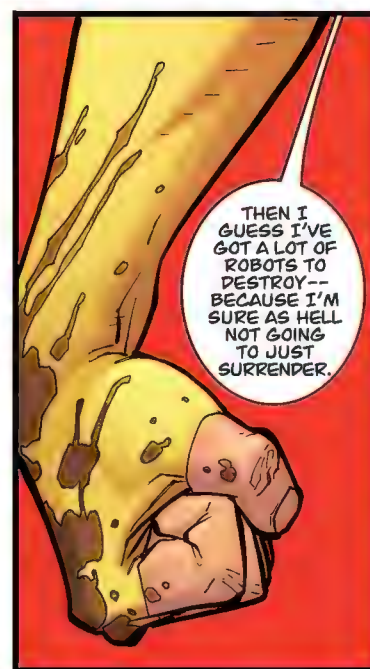
THEN WHAT? WE JUST
FORGET THIS EVER
HAPPENED? FORGET
YOU'VE GOT DOCTOR
FRANKENSTEIN RUNNING
FREE--MAKING ZOMBIE
SOLDIERS--PRETEND
YOU'RE NOT HIRING
MURDERERS?!

HOW
ABOUT THIS--
YOU ARREST D.A.
SINCLAIR AND
DARKWING--AND
I'LL THINK ABOUT
STANDING
DOWN.

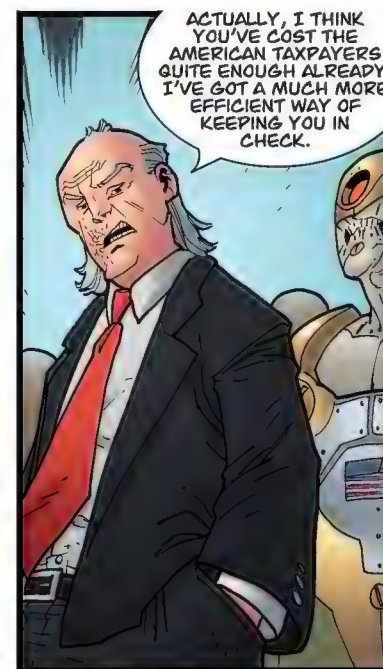


IF YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO CONTINUE WORKING
FOR ME--THEN I'LL
NEED THEM MORE
THAN EVER.

NO, I'M
SORRY THAT
ME WORKING WITH
THEM INTERFERES
WITH YOUR STRICT
VIEWS ON RIGHT AND
WRONG THAT ARE
BORN OUT OF A NEED
TO PROVE YOU'RE NOT
YOUR FATHER--BUT
I WON'T STOP
WORKING WITH
THEM ANY TIME
SOON.



THEN I
GUESS I'VE
GOT A LOT OF
ROBOTS TO
DESTROY--
BECAUSE I'M
SURE AS HELL
NOT GOING
TO JUST
SURRENDER.



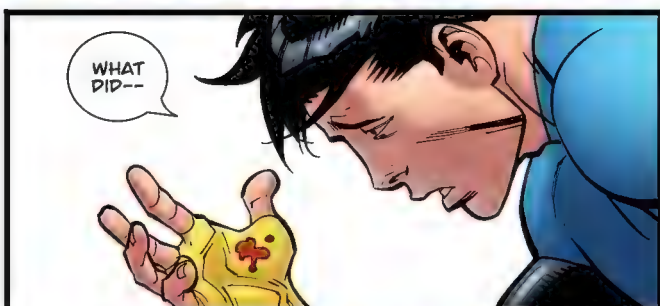
ACTUALLY, I THINK
YOU'VE COST THE
AMERICAN TAXPAYERS
QUITE ENOUGH ALREADY.
I'VE GOT A MUCH MORE
EFFICIENT WAY OF
KEEPING YOU IN
CHECK.



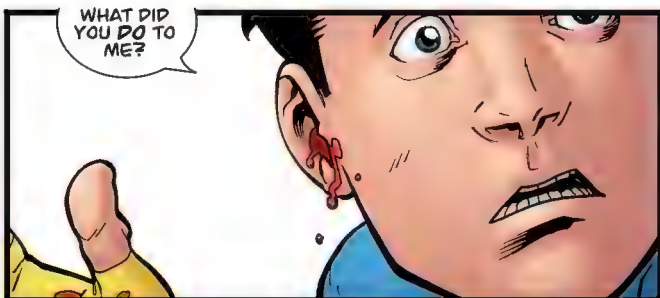
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, MARK. THE ONLY THING I ASK IS THAT YOU BE REASONABLE, THINK THIS OVER.

GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CONVINCE YOU THAT I'M RIGHT. EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR YOU-- YOUR FAMILY, ALL THE TIME WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER...

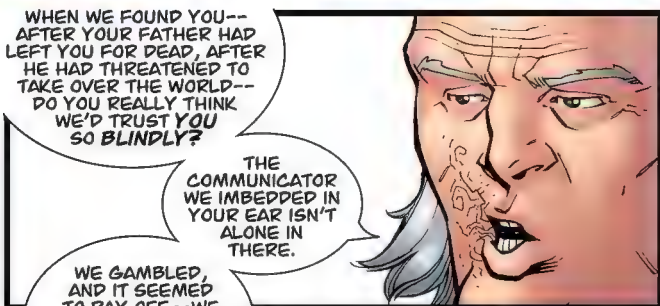
I THINK YOU AT LEAST OWE ME THAT MUCH.



WHAT DID--



WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?



WHEN WE FOUND YOU-- AFTER YOUR FATHER HAD LEFT YOU FOR DEAD, AFTER HE HAD THREATENED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD-- DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'D TRUST YOU SO BLINDLY?

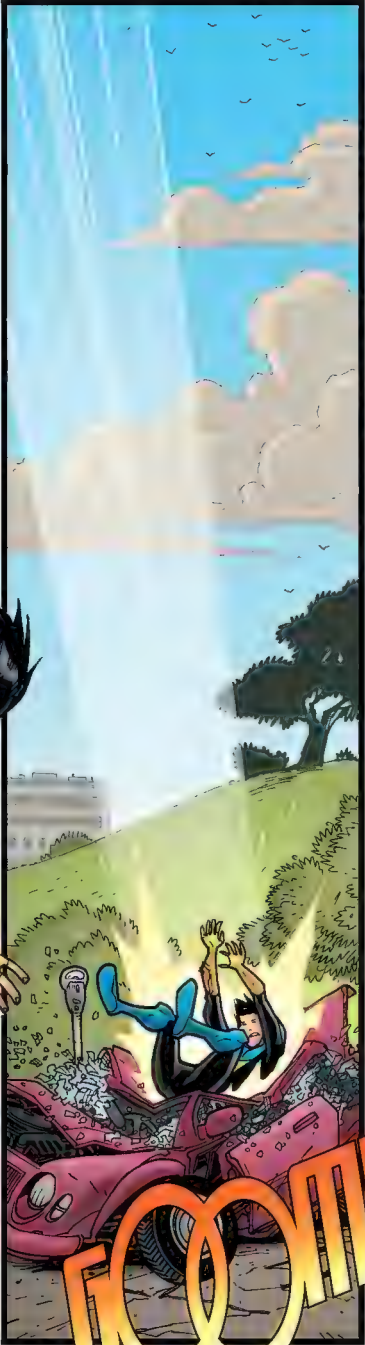
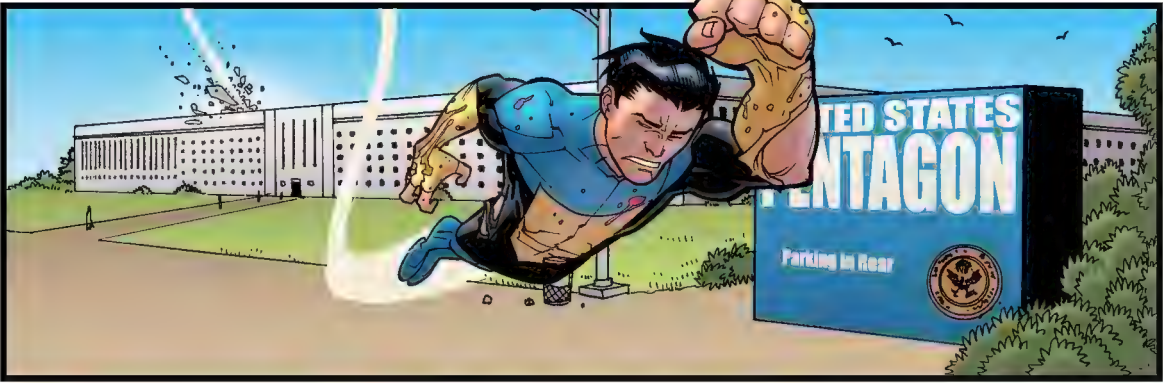
THE COMMUNICATOR WE IMBEDDED IN YOUR EAR ISN'T ALONE IN THERE.

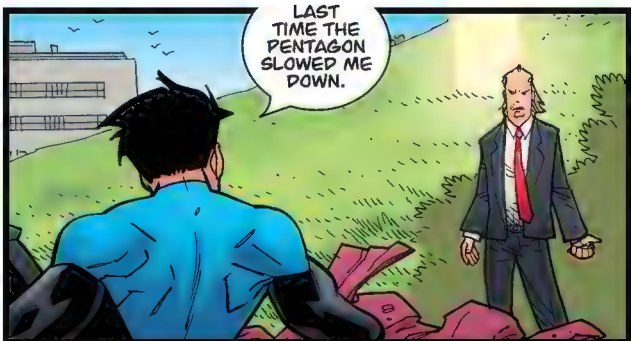
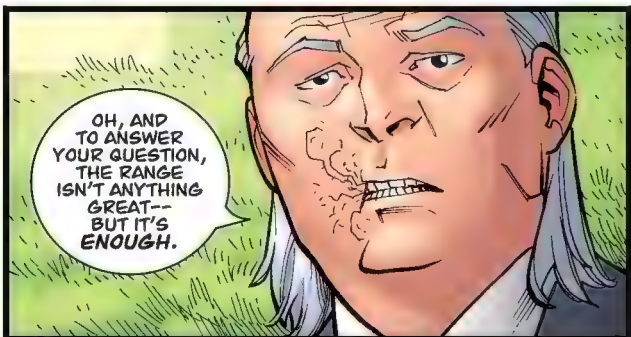
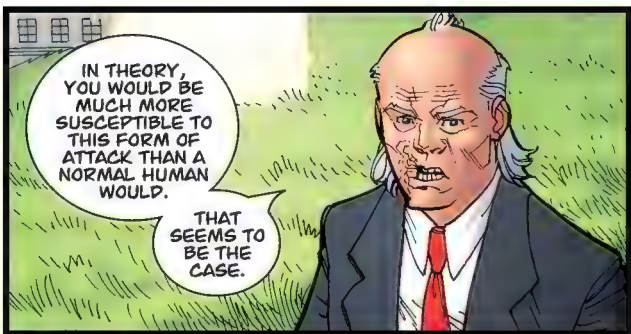
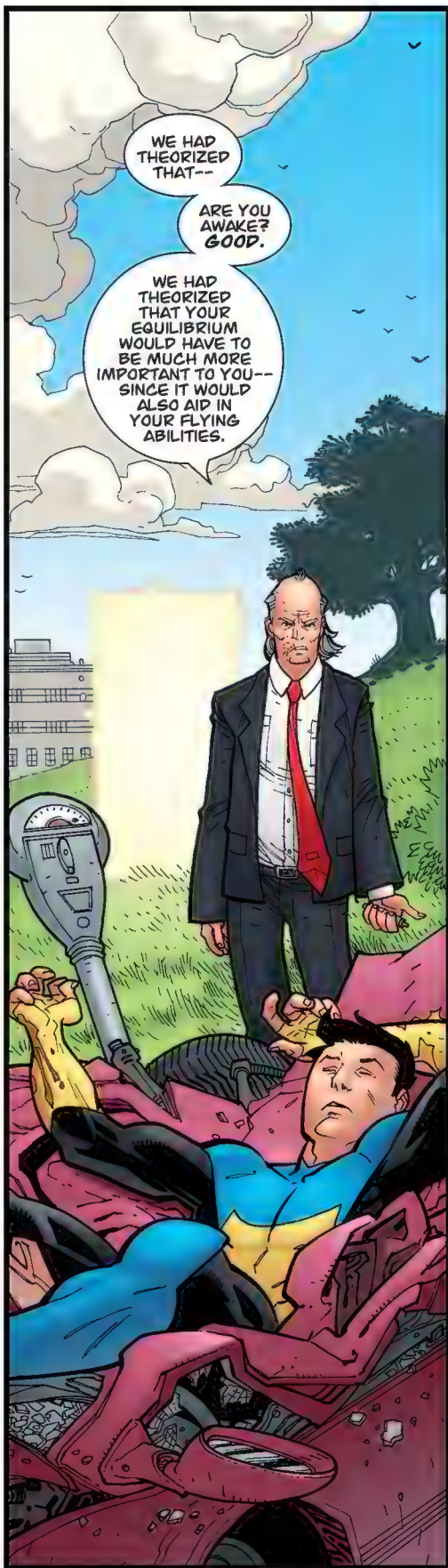


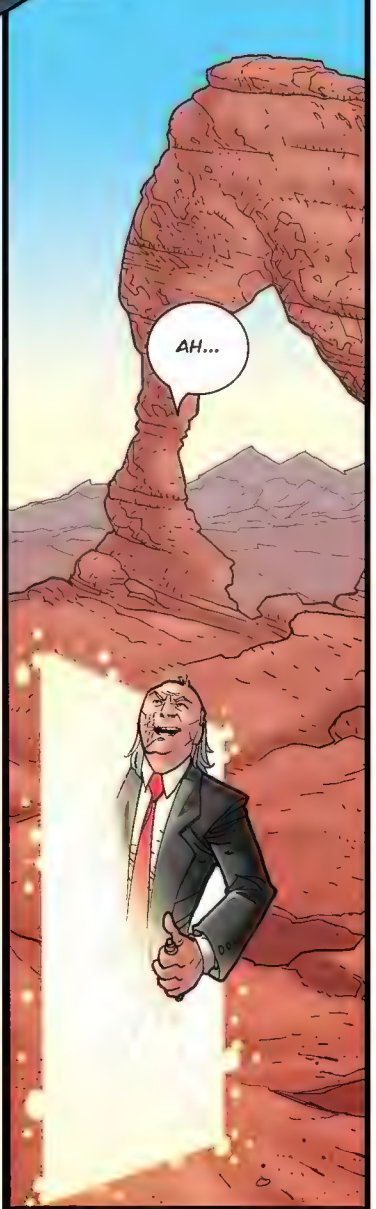
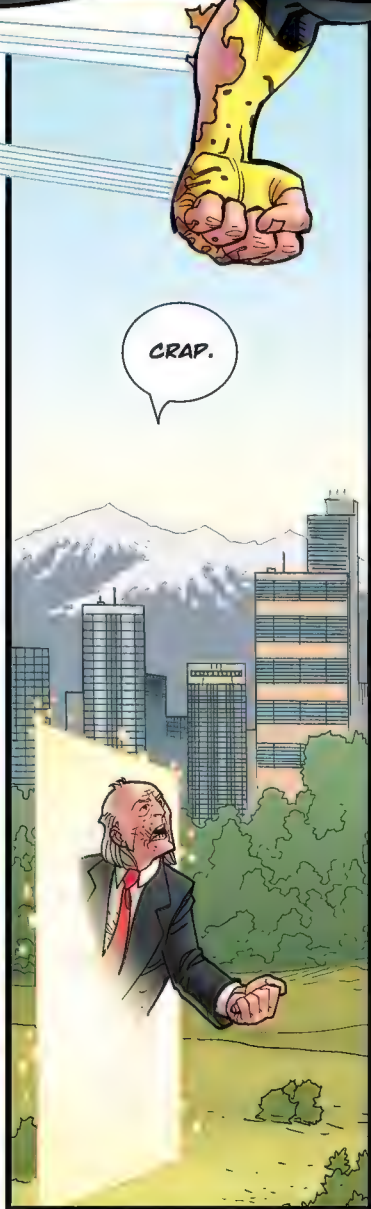
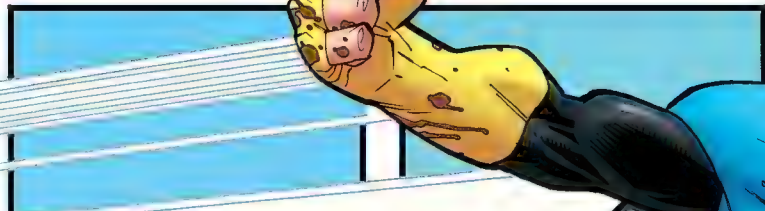
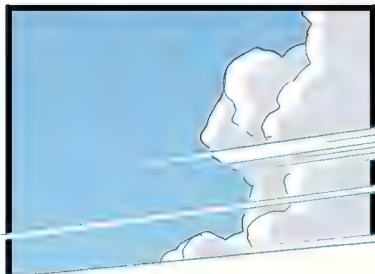
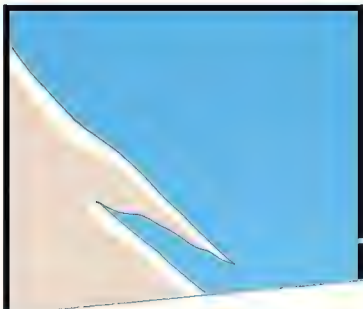
WE GAMBLERD, AND IT SEEMED TO PAY OFF--WE FIGURED YOUR EQUILIBRIUM WASN'T AS INVULNERABLE AS YOU ARE.

WE WERE RIGHT. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE FOUND A WEAKNESS.

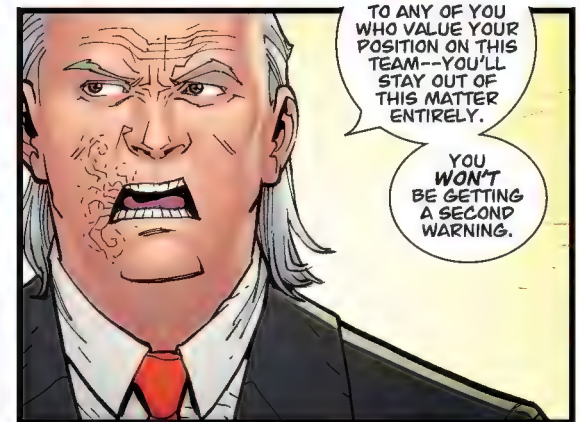
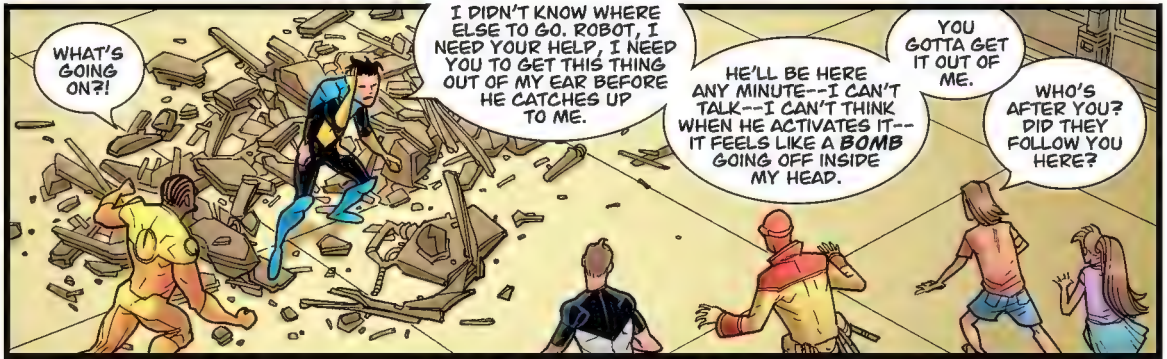
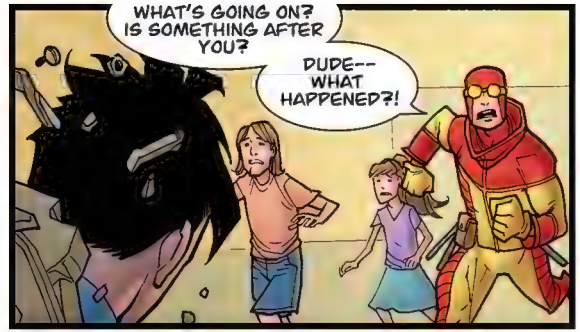


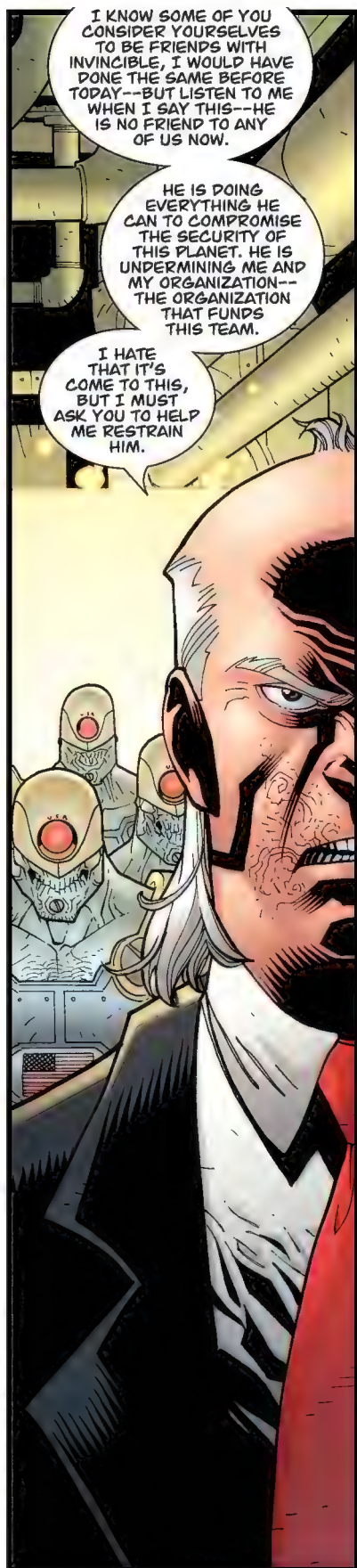












I KNOW SOME OF YOU CONSIDER YOURSELVES TO BE FRIENDS WITH INVINCIBLE, I WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME BEFORE TODAY--BUT LISTEN TO ME WHEN I SAY THIS--HE IS NO FRIEND TO ANY OF US NOW.

HE IS DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO COMPROMISE THE SECURITY OF THIS PLANET. HE IS UNDERMINING ME AND MY ORGANIZATION--THE ORGANIZATION THAT FUNDS THIS TEAM.

I HATE THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, BUT I MUST ASK YOU TO HELP ME RESTRAIN HIM.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, INVINCIBLE? YOU'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A MANIAC SINCE WE DEFEATED DOC SEISMIC EARLIER.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM--HE'S NOT TELLING YOU THE WHOLE STORY!

HE'S EMPLOYING MURDERERS! THE MAN WHO HELPED US STOP DOC SEISMIC, DARKWING, HE'S A MURDERER--I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME BUT IT'S TRUE.

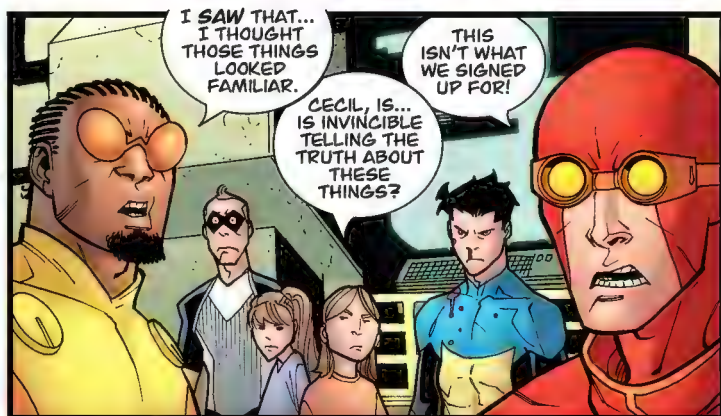
I WAS SENT INTO MIDNIGHT CITY BY CECIL--SENT IN TO STOP A MURDERER. I FOUND OUT IT WAS DARKWING, HE'D SNAPPED, HE WAS KILLING ANYONE WHO BROKE THE LAW.

I ARRESTED HIM--I THOUGHT HE WAS IN JAIL. CECIL SUPPRESSED THE TRUTH--PUT HIM ON THE PAYROLL!

I KNOW DARKWING. HE WAS ALWAYS ARROGANT, EVEN HATEFUL... BUT I DON'T SEE HIM BEING A MURDERER.

THESE ROBOTS--THESE REANIMEN HE'S GOT WITH HIM. THEY WERE INVENTED BY A MAN WHO BUILT THEM AROUND HOMELESS PEOPLE AND COLLEGE STUDENTS--MY FRIENDS. THEY ATTACKED MY COLLEGE CAMPUS TWICE--YOU HAD TO SEE THAT ON THE NEWS!

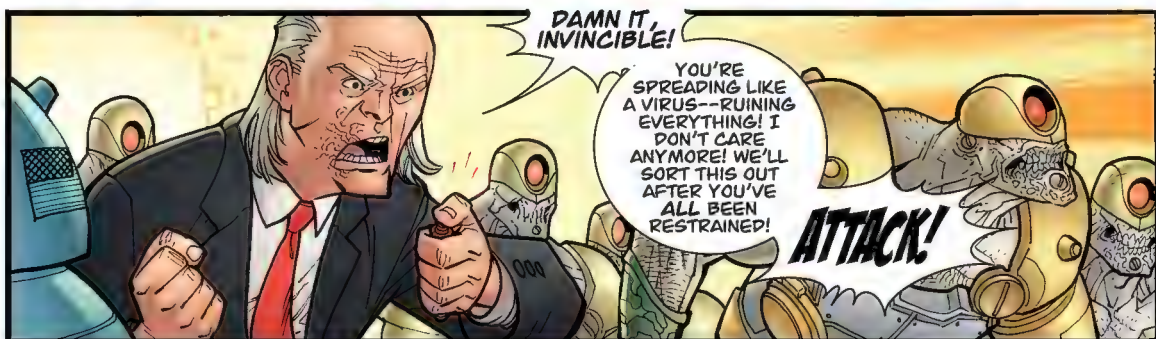
HE KILLED MORE THAN A DOZEN PEOPLE PERFECTING THOSE MONSTROSITIES.

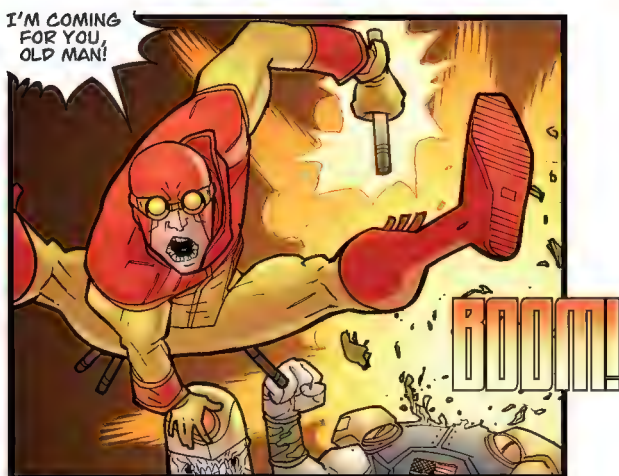
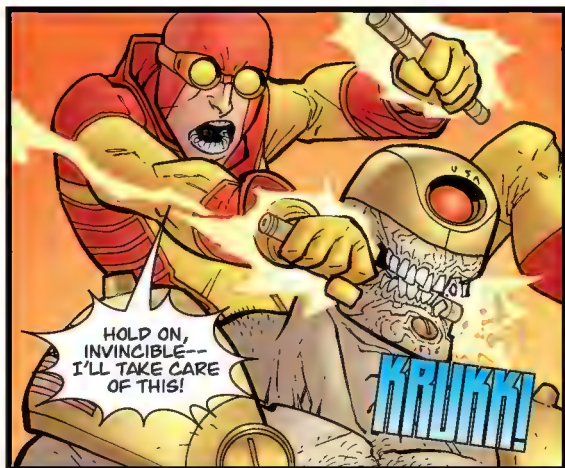


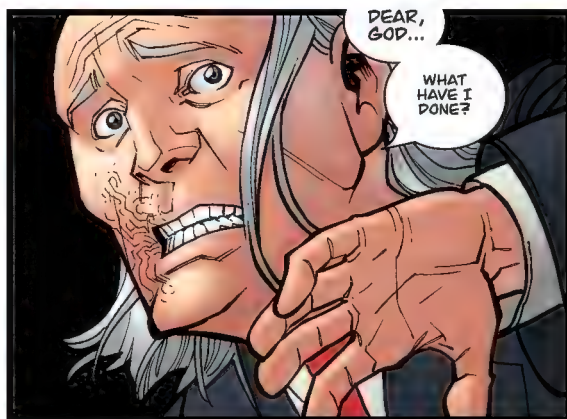
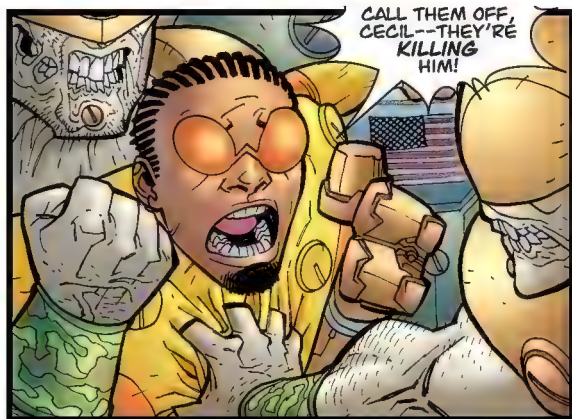
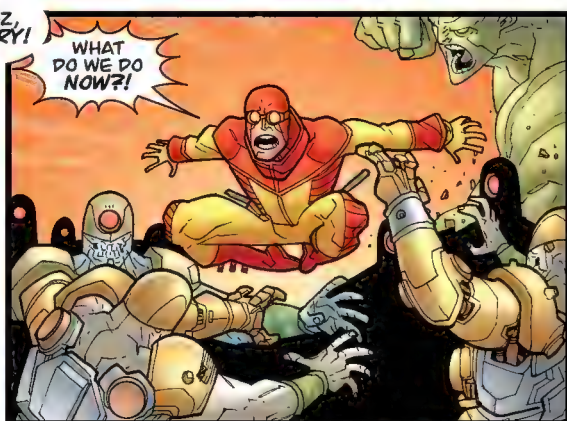
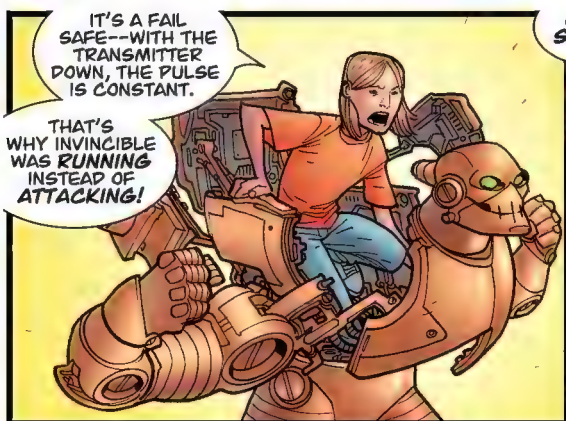
I SAW THAT... I THOUGHT THOSE THINGS LOOKED FAMILIAR.

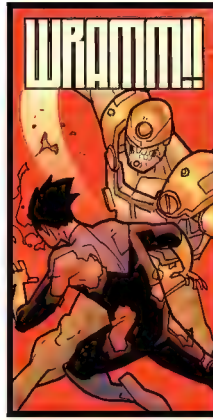
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE SIGNED UP FOR!

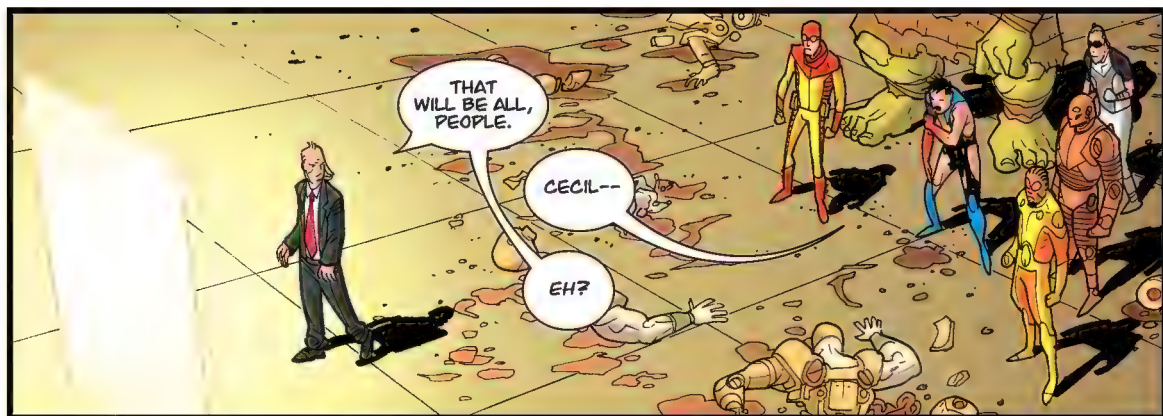
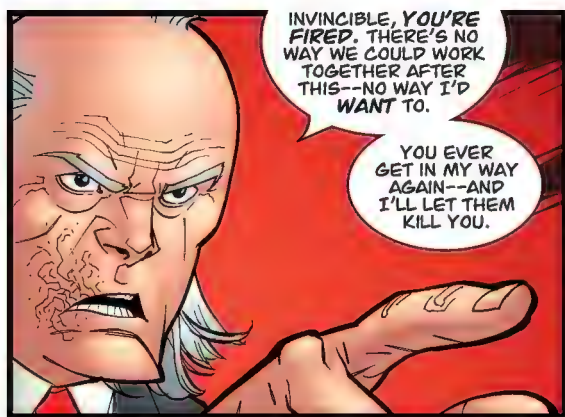
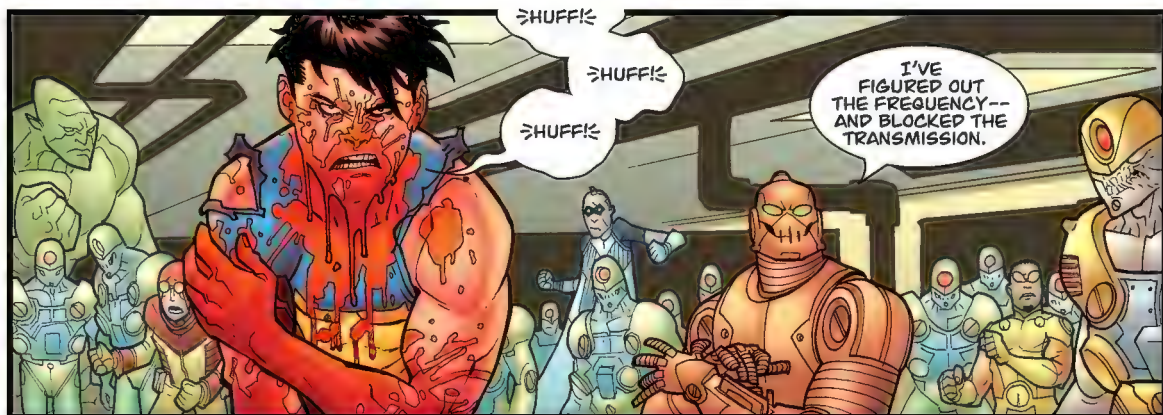
CECIL, IS... IS INVINCIBLE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE THINGS?

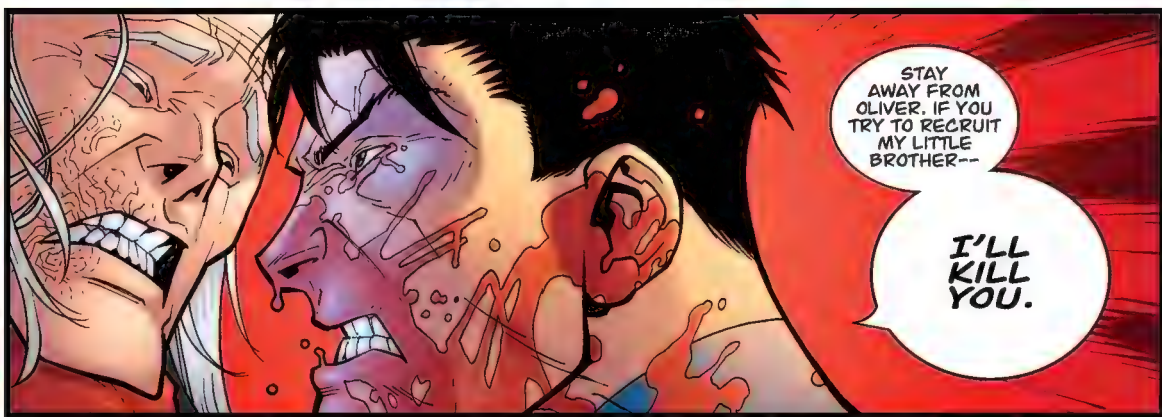


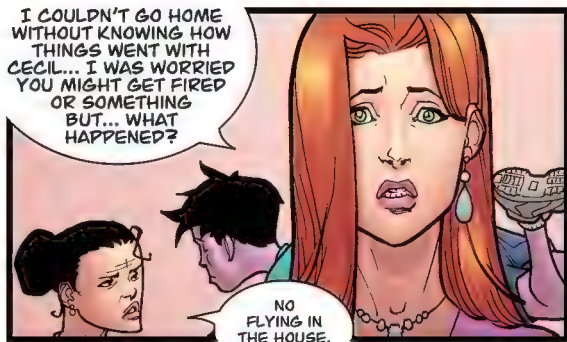
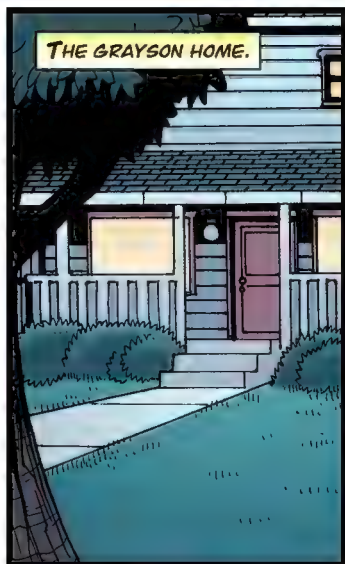














EVE,
WAIT--

OH, I WASN'T GOING
TO GO WITHOUT SAYING
GOODBYE... I JUST
THOUGHT YOU AND YOUR
MOM WOULD WANT TO BE
ALONE FOR A MINUTE...
TO TALK ABOUT
STUFF.

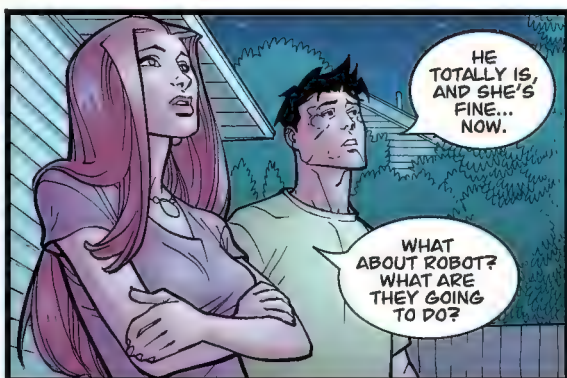
AND IT'S
A PRETTY
NIGHT.



YEAH.

YOUR MOM
CALMED DOWN?
I THOUGHT SHE
WAS GOING TO
DRIVE TO THE
PENTAGON ON
HER OWN.

P.S. YOUR
BROTHER IS
AWESOME.
HAVE I TOLD
YOU THAT?



HE
TOTALLY IS,
AND SHE'S
FINE...
NOW.

WHAT
ABOUT ROBOT?
WHAT ARE
THEY GOING
TO DO?

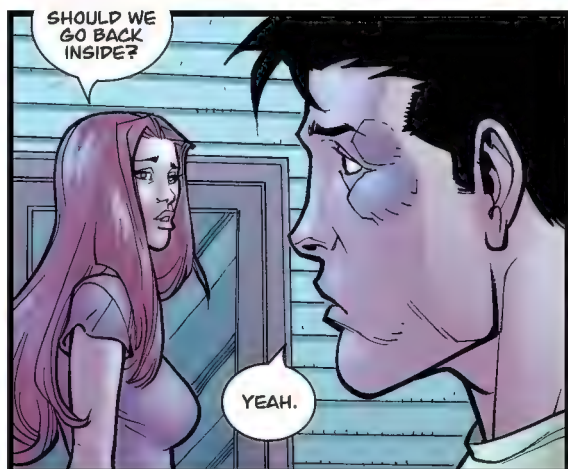


THEY'RE QUITTING.
ROBOT AND MONSTER
GIRL ARE... AND REX,
HIM TOO FOR SURE.
BULLETPROOF IS
A MAYBE.

SHAPESMITH
HAS SOME KIND OF
HERO-WORSHIP
THING GOING ON WITH
IMMORTAL, SO IF HE
DOESN'T QUIT, NEITHER
WILL SHAPESMITH--AND
IMMORTAL'S SO TIGHT
WITH CECIL HE'S
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE.

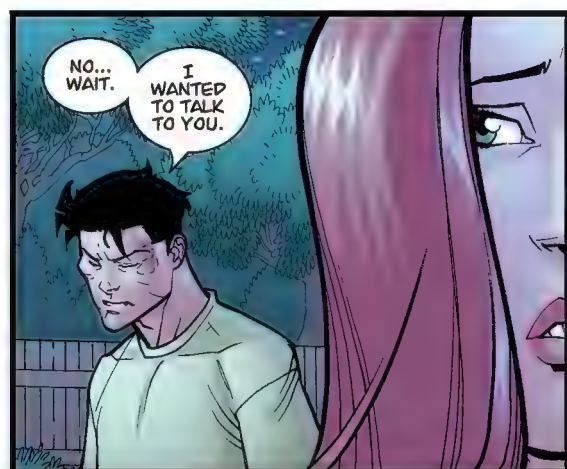
I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THE REST.
KATE, SAMSON...
THEY'LL
PROBABLY
STAY.

AFTER
ROBOT TOOK
THAT DEVICE
OUT OF MY EAR,
HE MENTIONED
SOMETHING ABOUT
STILL HAVING THE
TEEN TEAM'S OLD
BASE--WHOEVER
QUITS MIGHT START
WORKING OUT OF
THAT AGAIN.



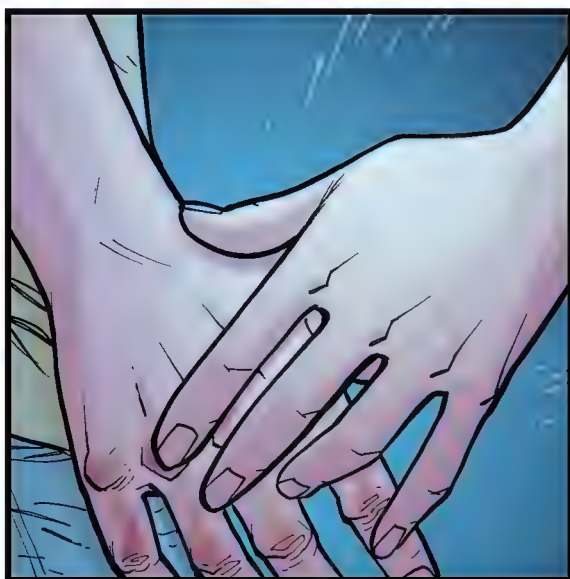
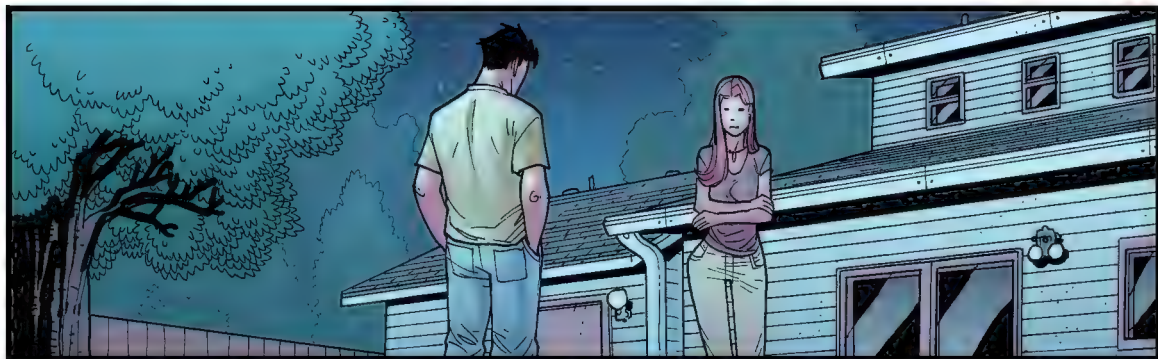
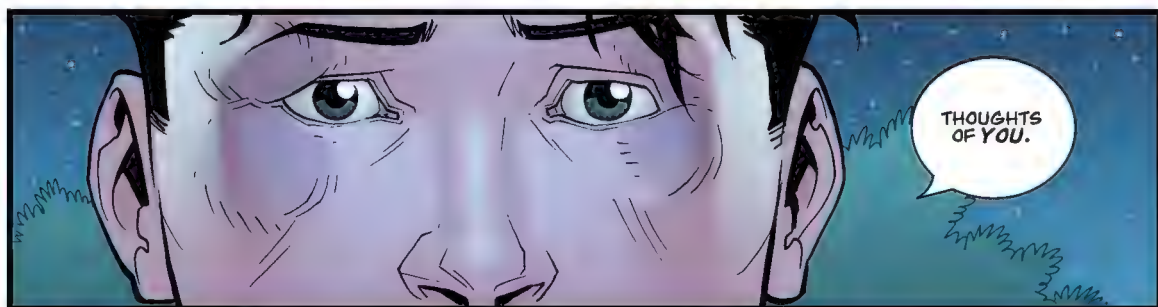
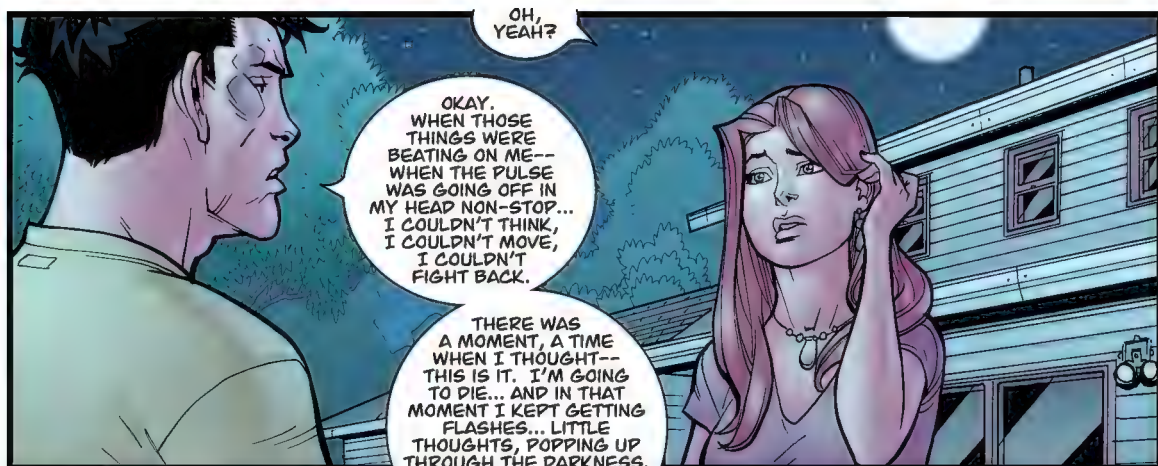
SHOULD WE
GO BACK
INSIDE?

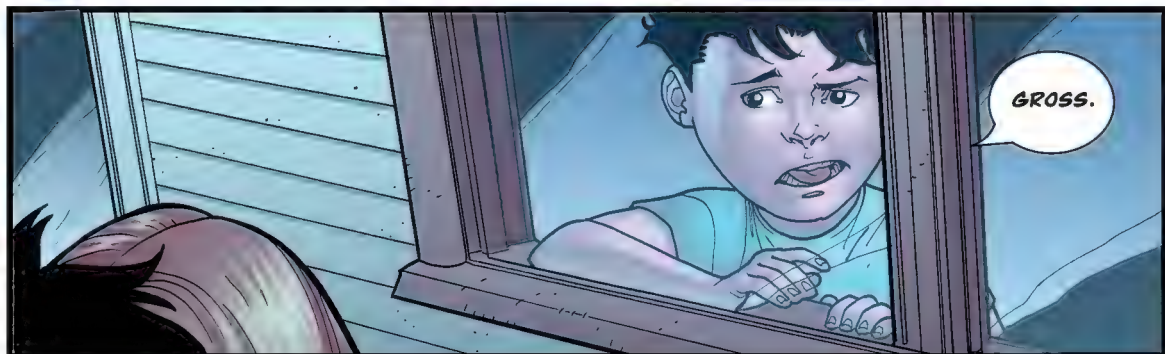
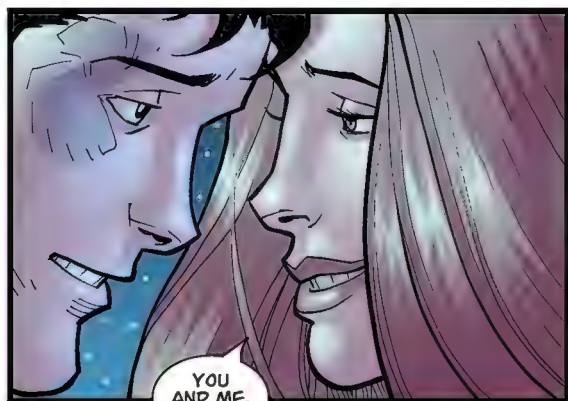
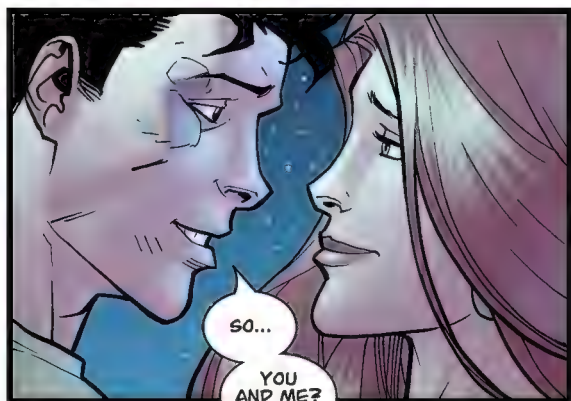
YEAH.



NO...
WAIT.

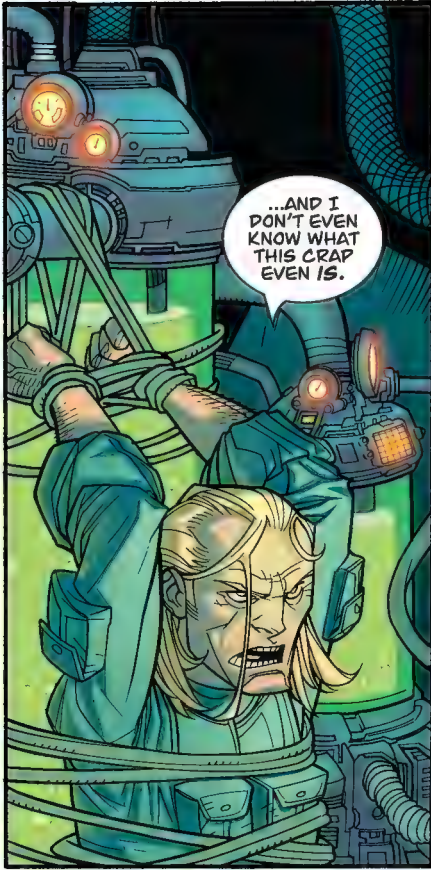
I
WANTED
TO TALK
TO YOU.



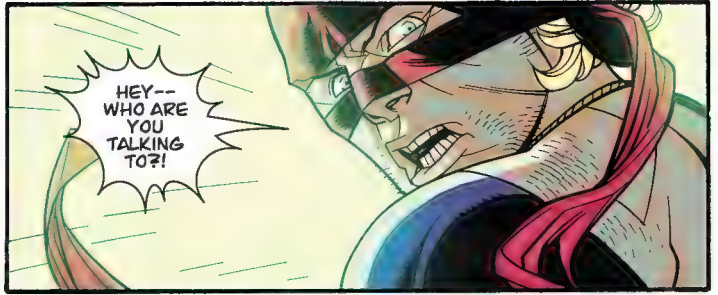


AT LONG LAST--THE SECRET ORIGIN OF CECIL STEDMAN!





...AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS CRAP EVEN IS.



HEY-- WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?!



SILENCE HIM! I WON'T HAVE OUR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH SPOILED BY THE RAMBLING OF A NON-BELIEVER!

YES, DEAR.



HANDS ON YOUR HEADS--- EVERYONE DOWN--- NOBODY MOVES, NOBODY GETS SHOT!



NO--THERE'S STILL TIME! PETONATE THE BOMB!

PETONATE IT NOW!

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!

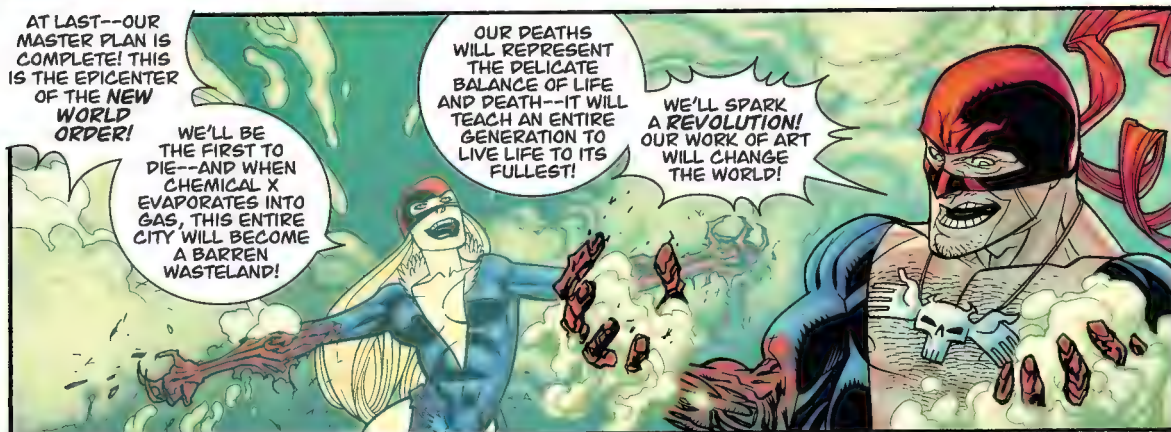


AT LAST--OUR
MASTER PLAN IS
COMPLETE! THIS
IS THE EPICENTER
OF THE NEW
WORLD
ORDER!

WE'LL BE
THE FIRST TO
DIE--AND WHEN
CHEMICAL X
EVAPORATES INTO
GAS, THIS ENTIRE
CITY WILL BECOME
A BARREN
WASTELAND!

OUR DEATHS
WILL REPRESENT
THE DELICATE
BALANCE OF LIFE
AND DEATH--IT WILL
TEACH AN ENTIRE
GENERATION TO
LIVE LIFE TO ITS
FULLEST!

WE'LL SPARK
A REVOLUTION!
OUR WORK OF ART
WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD!



STOW IT,
CRAZIES!

HQ--LISTEN
UP! WE'VE GOT
A SITUATION
HERE!

CHEMICAL
X HAS BEEN
RELEASED!

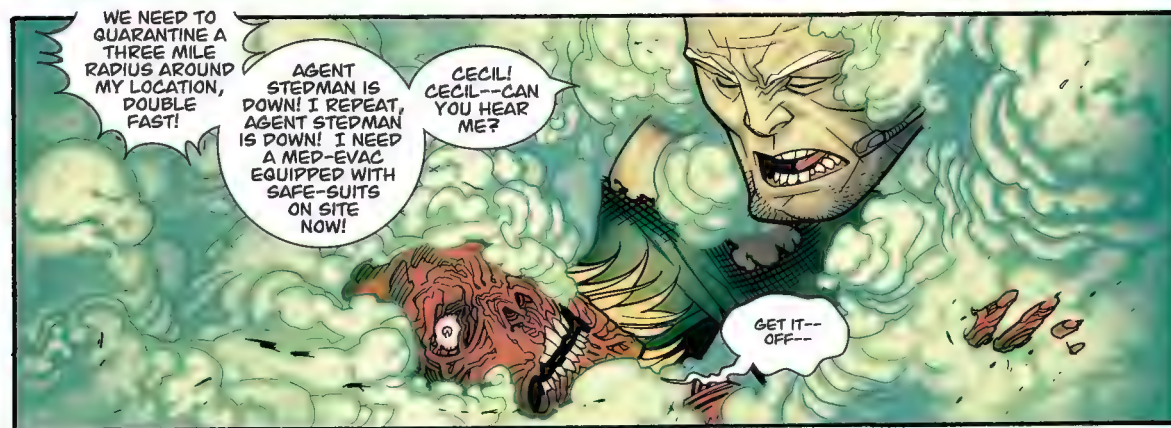


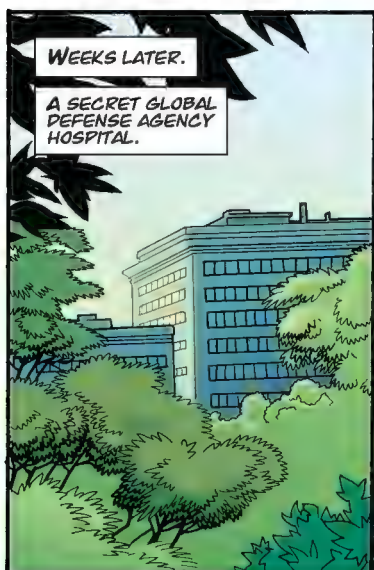
WE NEED TO
QUARANTINE A
THREE MILE
RADIUS AROUND
MY LOCATION,
DOUBLE
FAST!

AGENT
STEPMAN IS
DOWN! I REPEAT,
AGENT STEPMAN
IS DOWN! I NEED
A MED-EVAC
EQUIPPED WITH
SAFE-SUITS
ON SITE
NOW!

CECIL!
CECIL--CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

GET IT--
OFF--





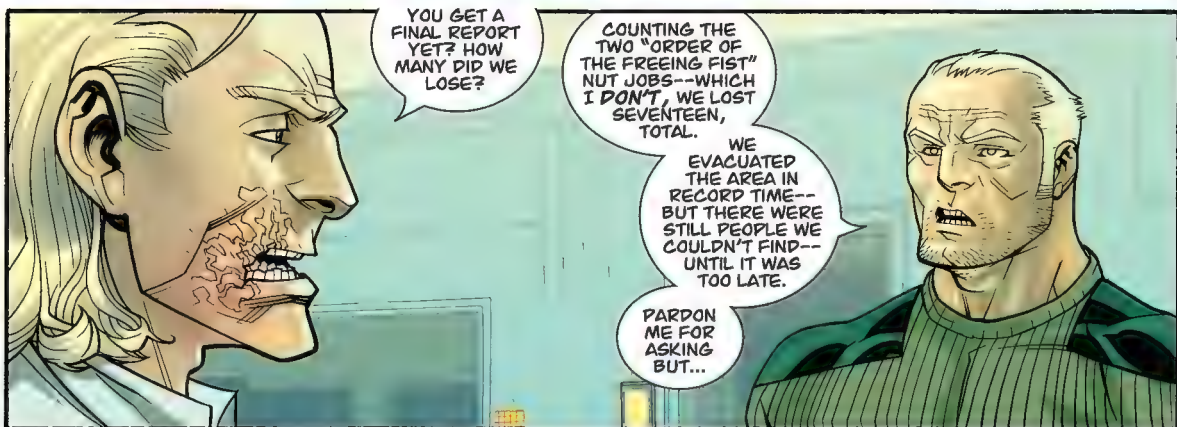
WEEKS LATER.

A SECRET GLOBAL
DEFENSE AGENCY
HOSPITAL.



THEY'RE
LETTING
YOU OUT
ALREADY?

YEAH, I'M
TIP TOP. SO
YOU PICKED THE
PERFECT TIME
TO FINALLY COME
AND VISIT.



YOU GET A
FINAL REPORT
YET? HOW
MANY DID WE
LOSE?

COUNTING THE
TWO "ORDER OF
THE FREING FIST"
NUT JOBS--WHICH
I DON'T, WE LOST
SEVENTEEN,
TOTAL.

WE
EVACUATED
THE AREA IN
RECORD TIME--
BUT THERE WERE
STILL PEOPLE WE
COULDN'T FIND--
UNTIL IT WAS
TOO LATE.

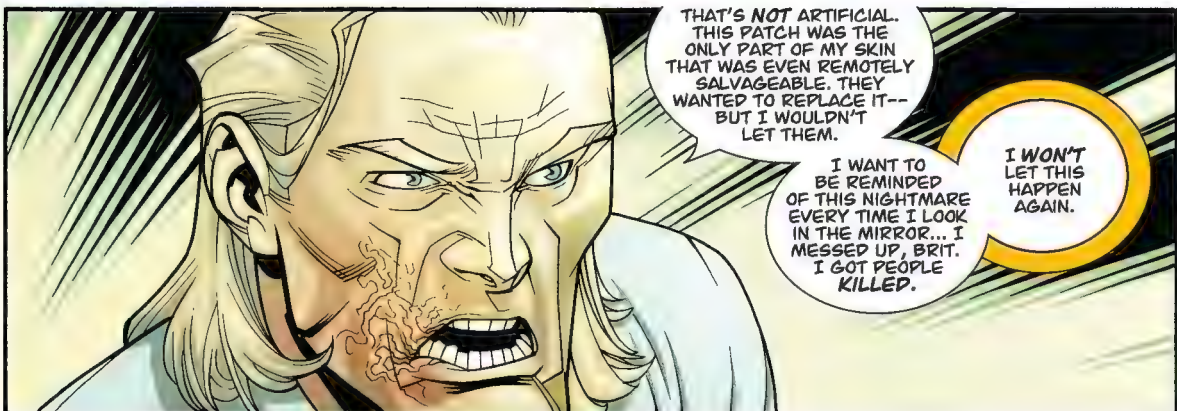
PARDON
ME FOR
ASKING
BUT...



WHAT'S
WITH THE
SCAR?



DID THEY
MESS UP WHEN
THEY WERE
APPLYING THE
ARTIFICIAL
SKIN? WHAT
GIVES?

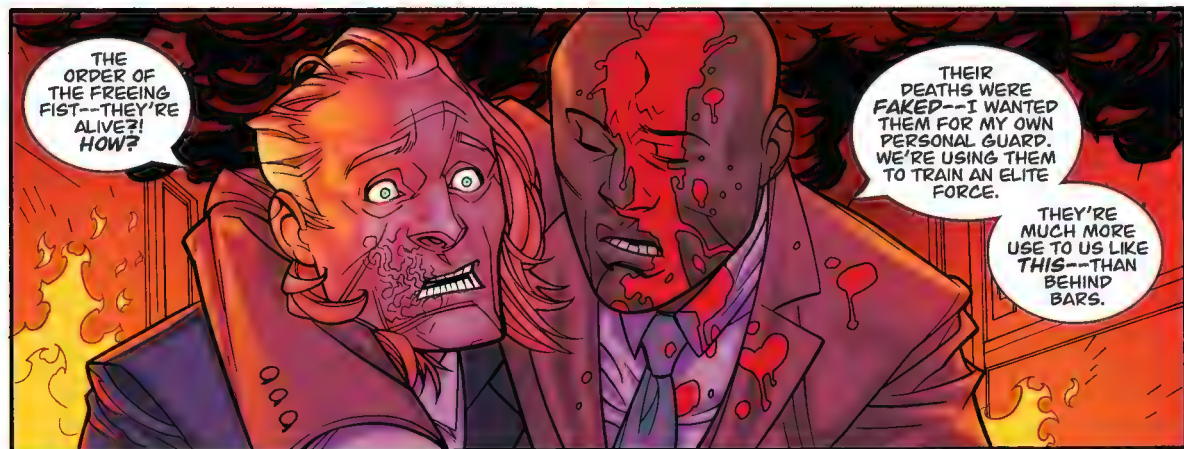


THAT'S NOT ARTIFICIAL.
THIS PATCH WAS THE
ONLY PART OF MY SKIN
THAT WAS EVEN REMOTELY
SALVAGEABLE. THEY
WANTED TO REPLACE IT--
BUT I WOULDN'T
LET THEM.

I WANT TO
BE REMINDED
OF THIS NIGHTMARE
EVERY TIME I LOOK
IN THE MIRROR... I
MESSED UP, BRIT.
I GOT PEOPLE
KILLED.

I WON'T
LET THIS
HAPPEN
AGAIN.

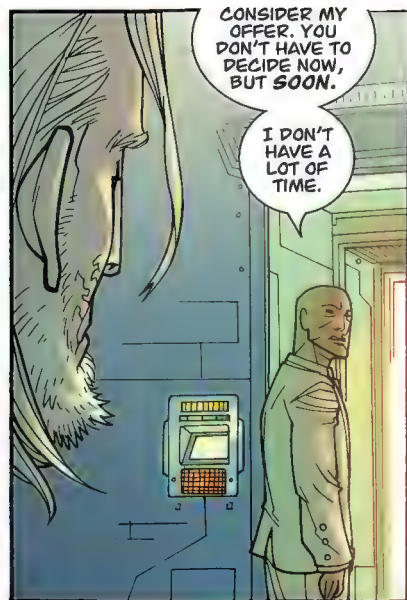
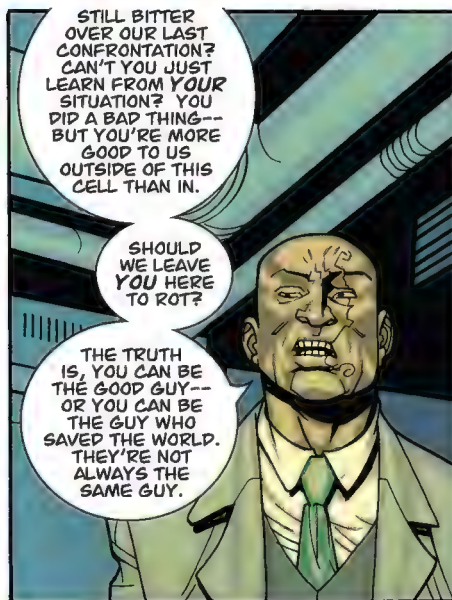
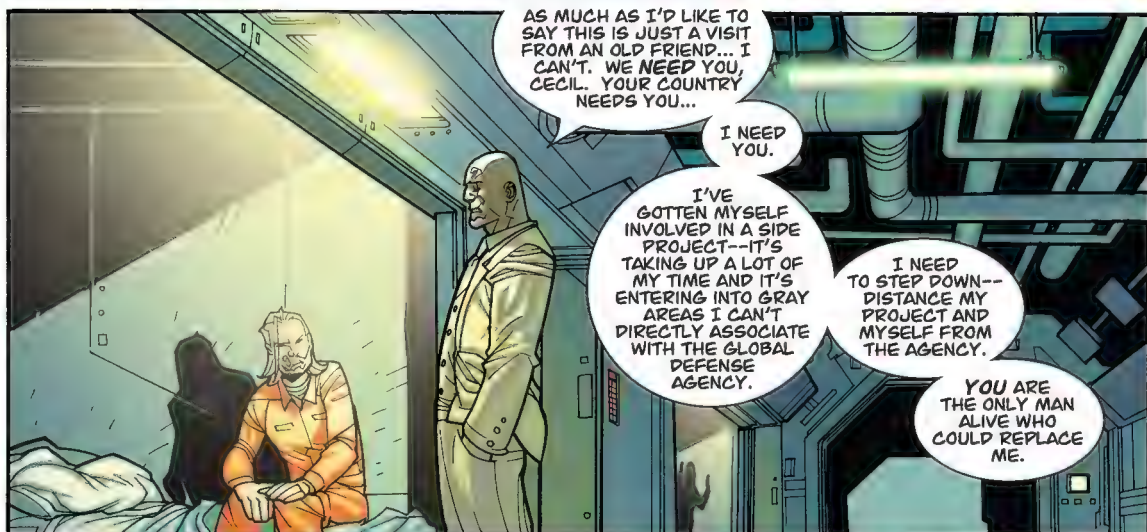
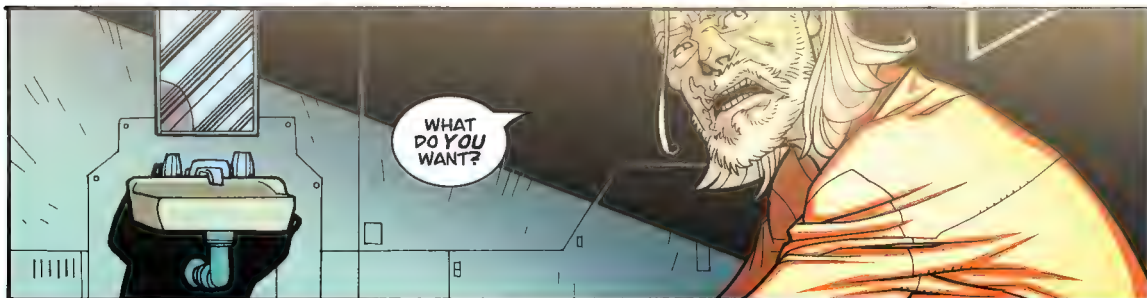


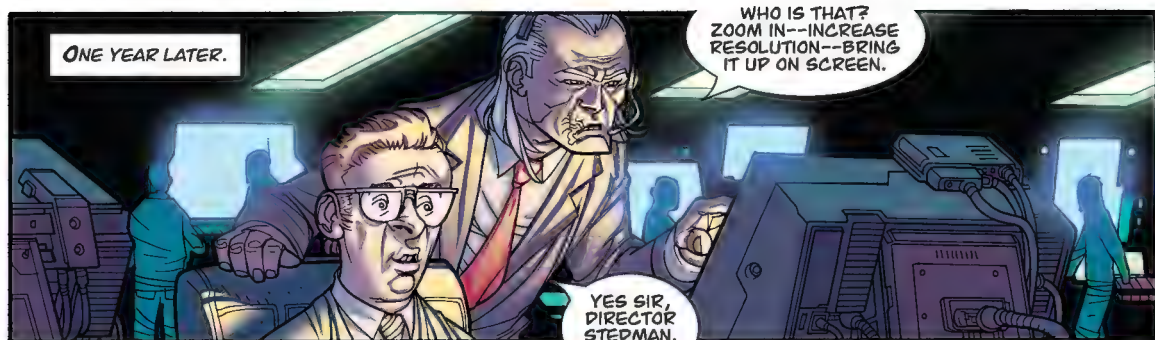


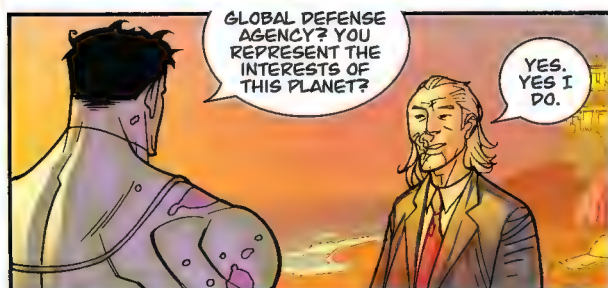


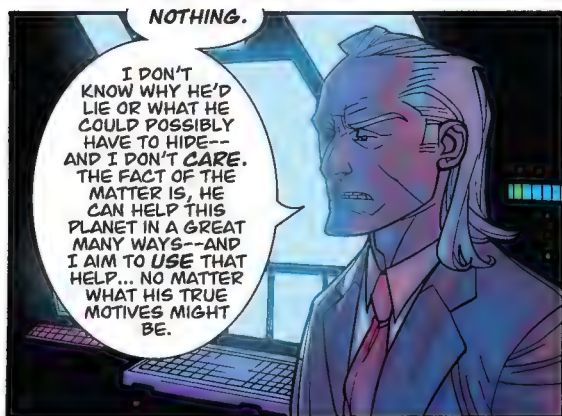


CECIL,
OLD FRIEND...
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?











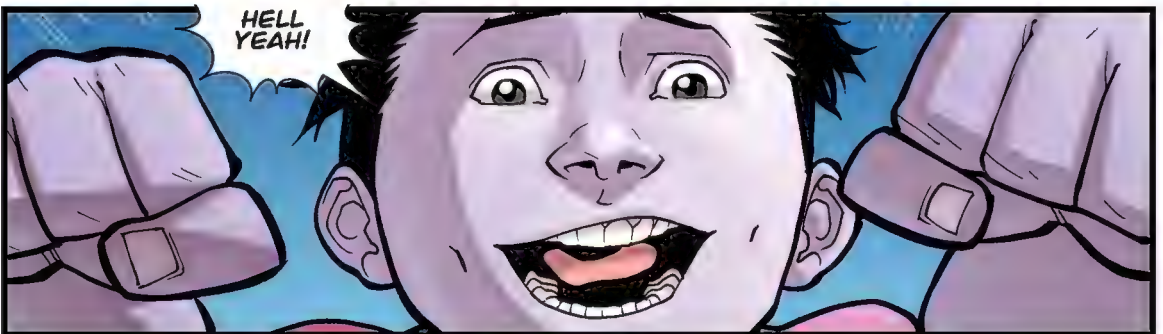
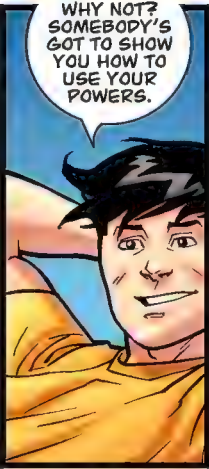
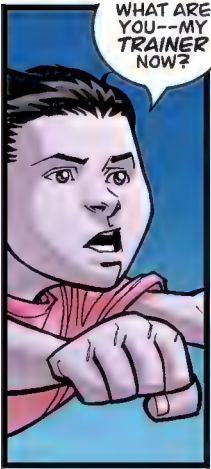
CHAPTER FOUR





HEY!

**SLOW
DOWN!**





THE FORMER
BASE OF THE
TEEN TEAM.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU
GUYS ARE
GOING TO USE
THIS PLACE
AGAIN.

ARE YOU
KIDDING?
THIS PLACE
IS SWEET.

I DON'T
SEE ANY
REASON NOT
TO USE IT--IT'S
COMPLETELY
ADEQUATE
FOR OUR
PURPOSES.

IT IS A
COOL BASE,
JUST SEEMS LIKE
A BIT OF A STEP
DOWN, THAT'S ALL.
ARE YOU GOING TO
GO BY THE
TEEN TEAM
AGAIN?



I MEAN,
CECIL STILL
HAS A
GUARDIANS
OF THE
GLOBE TEAM...
RIGHT?



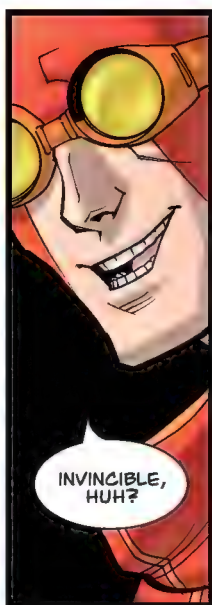
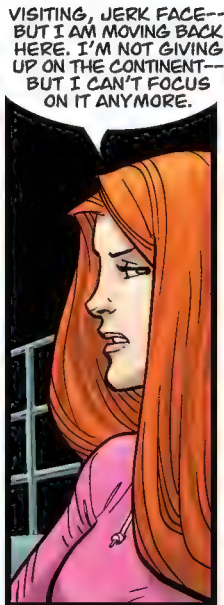
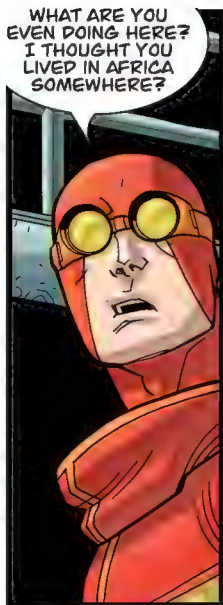
YEAH, I EXPECTED
MORE FROM KATE...
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE
SHAPESMITH STAYED
TOO--AFTER SEEING
WHAT CECIL DID TO
INVINCIBLE.

WE'RE
STILL
UNDECIDED
ON A NEW NAME.
I'VE GOT SOME
IDEAS... BUT
NOBODY LIKES
THEM.

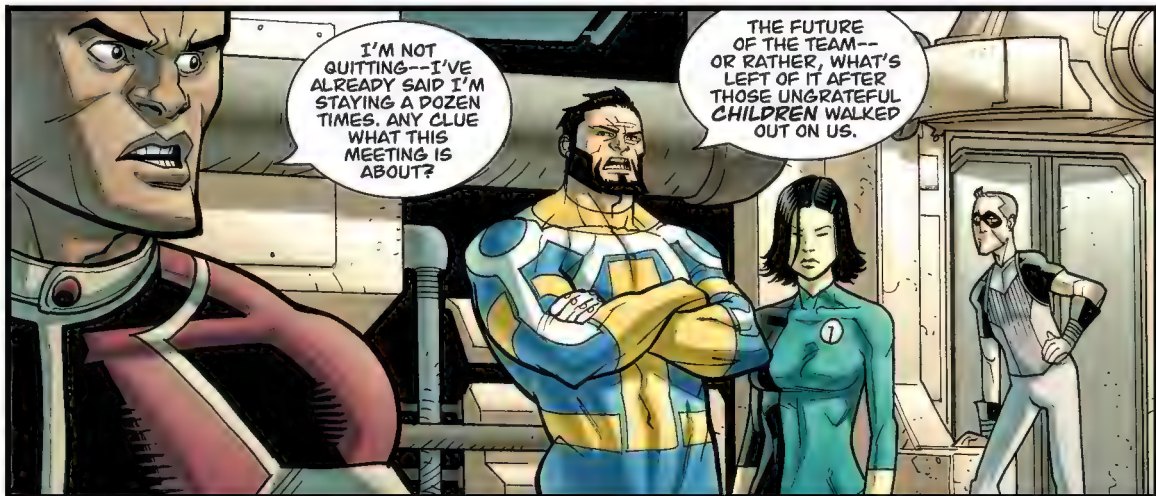
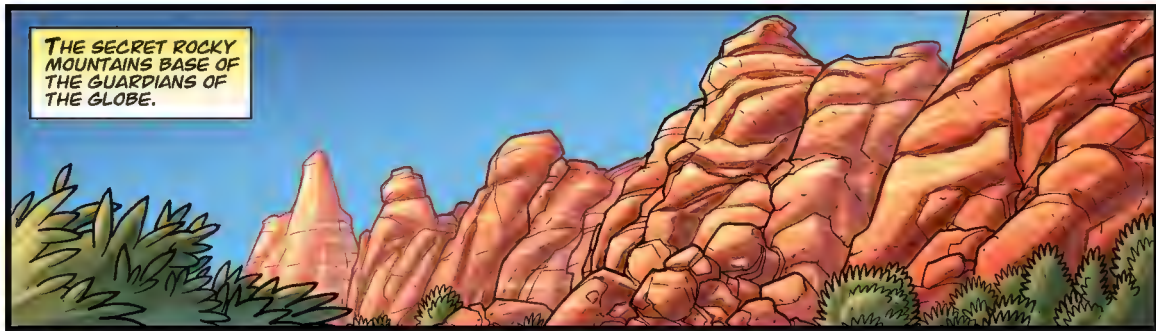


WE SURE
AS HELL AIN'T
GOING BY "THE
TEEN TEAM." AT
LEAST, NOT IF YOU
WANT ME ON
THE TEAM.

I BARELY
REMEMBER BEING
A TEENAGER--AND
JUST BEING AROUND
YOU KIDS MAKES ME FEEL
OLD ENOUGH AS IT IS.



THE SECRET ROCKY MOUNTAINS BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.





LET'S ALL
TAKE A SECOND
TO WELCOME
DARKWING, THE
NEWEST MEMBER
OF THE
GUARDIANS
OF THE
GLOBE.

I'M
HAPPY TO
SERVE.



IT'S GOOD
TO HAVE YOU
ON BOARD,
KID.



IT'S AN
HONOR TO
HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO WORK ALONG-
SIDE YOU, SIR. I
ONLY HOPE I CAN
BE AS USEFUL AS
MY MENTOR
WAS, WHEN HE
WAS ON THIS
TEAM.



IF YOUR
PERFORMANCE
AGAINST POC
SEISMIC WAS ANY
INDICATION--YOU'LL
SURPASS THE
ORIGINAL
DARKWING IN
NO TIME.



WHO
IS HE
AGAIN?

≡SIGH≡

THE SKYSCRAPER
HEADQUARTERS
OF TITAN.

THIS IS
NOT GOING
TO BE
EASY.

REGARDLESS, I FEEL
THE NEED TO REMIND
YOU THAT THE CLOCK IS
TICKING. MR. LIU IS A
HIGH-RANKING AND VERY
POWERFUL MEMBER OF THE
ORDER. HIS AGENT MULTI-
PAUL IS STILL IMPRISONED--
DESPITE HIS REQUEST
FOR YOU TO REMEDY
THAT.

YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
IN THE ORDER
IS NOT SET IN
STONE--IT WOULD
NOT TAKE MUCH
FOR THEM TO
ASK FOR YOUR
REMOVAL
AND--

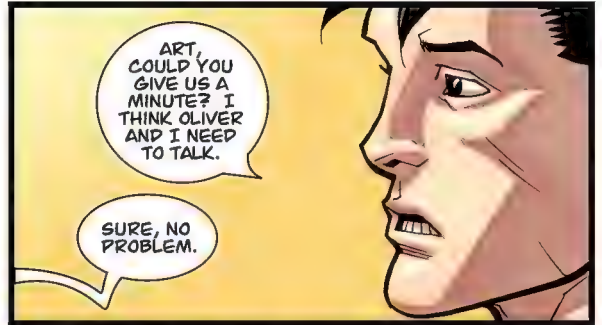
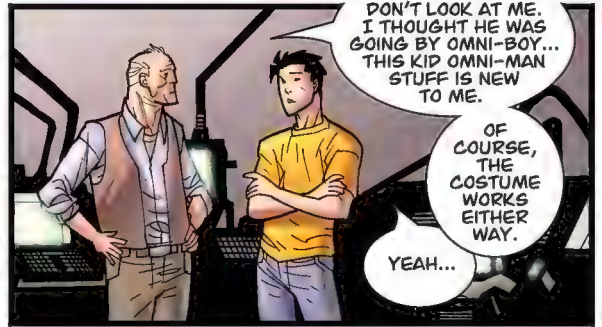
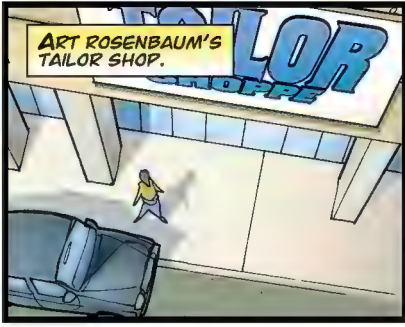
DO NOT ASSUME
I'M AS BLIND AS
MACHINE HEAD
WAS TO YOUR
TREACHEROUS
WAYS.

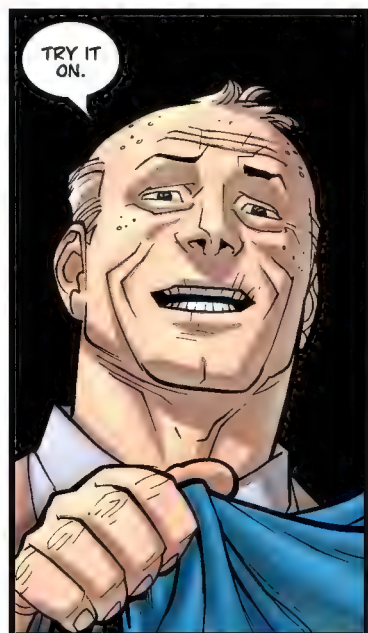
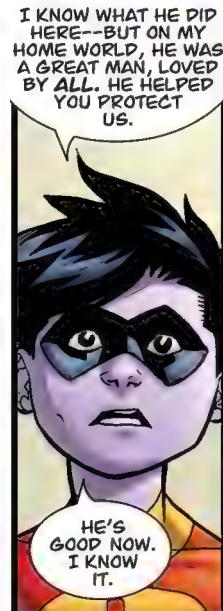
I WON'T
BE SO EASILY
OVERTAKEN.

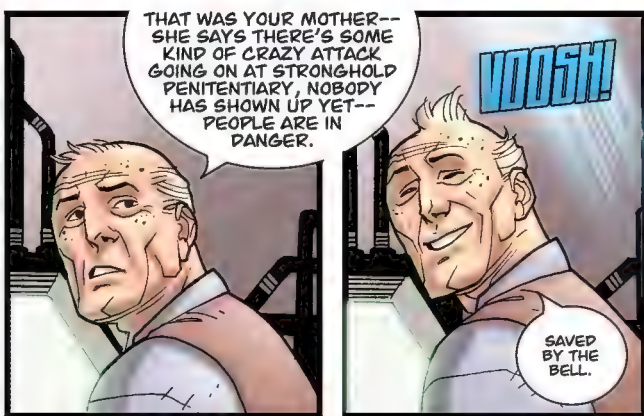
KRROOOOM!!!

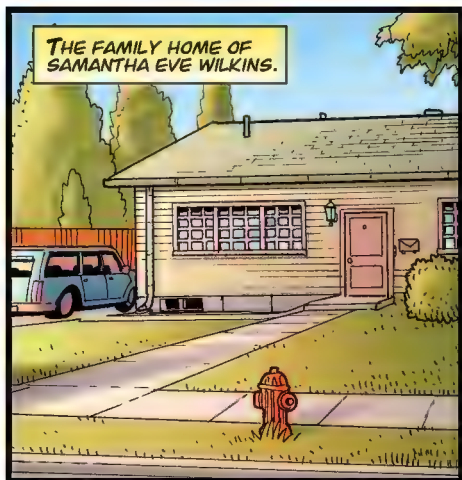
U--
UNDERSTOOD.

I
THOUGHT
SO.

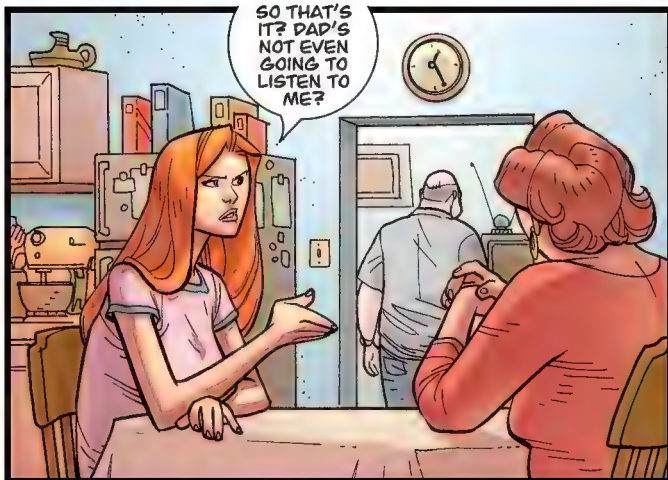








THE FAMILY HOME OF SAMANTHA EVE WILKINS.



SO THAT'S IT? DAD'S NOT EVEN GOING TO LISTEN TO ME?

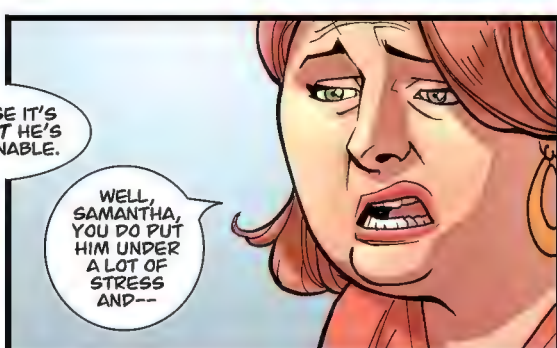
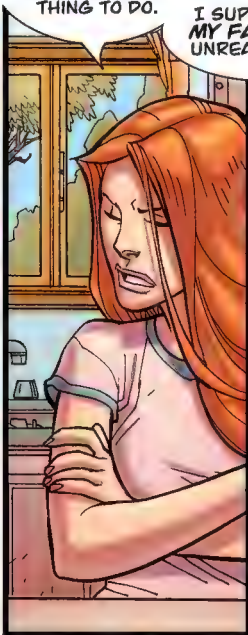
I'M SORRY, DEAR. HE'S JUST STILL MAD OVER THAT NOTE. YOU DID MOVE ALL THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD AND TOLD US IN A NOTE.

IT WAS A BIT INCONSIDERATE.

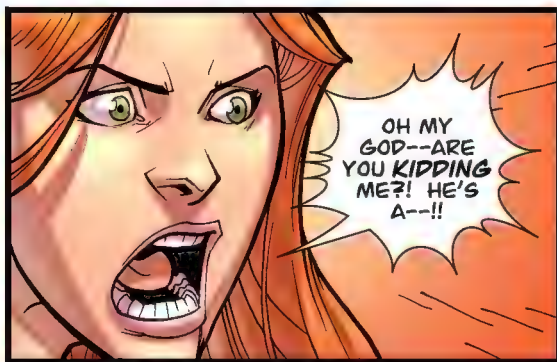


SORRY IF I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GETTING YELLED AT FOR SOMETHING I KNEW WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

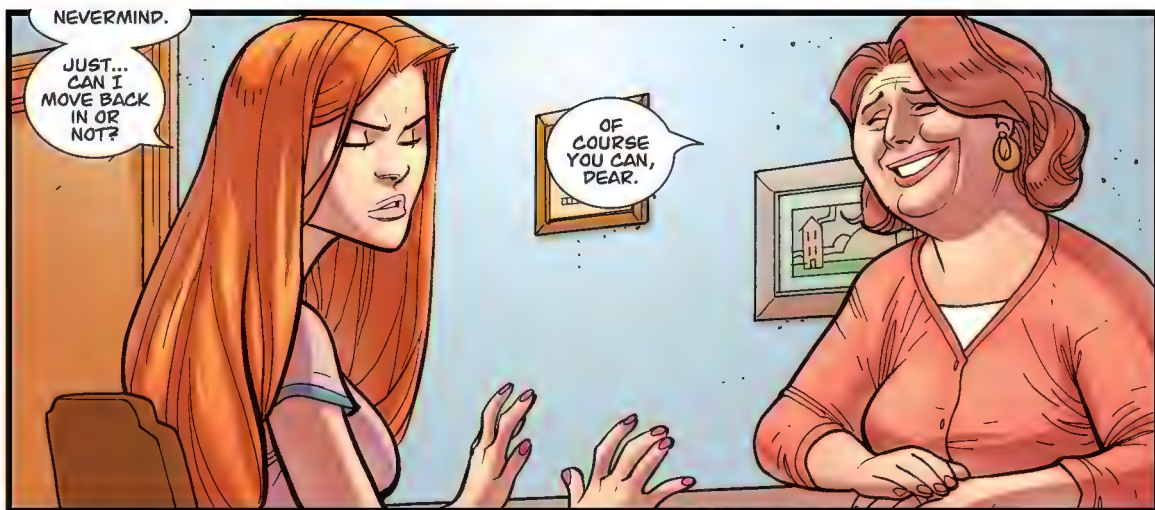
I SUPPOSE IT'S MY FAULT HE'S UNREASONABLE.



WELL, SAMANTHA, YOU DO PUT HIM UNDER A LOT OF STRESS AND--



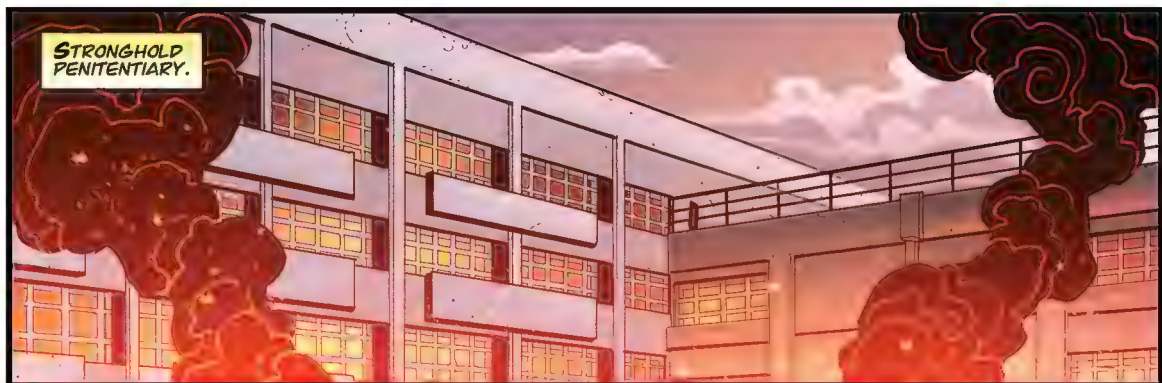
OH MY GOD--ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! HE'S A--!!



NEVERMIND.

JUST... CAN I MOVE BACK IN OR NOT?

OF COURSE YOU CAN, DEAR.



STRONGHOLD
PENITENTIARY.



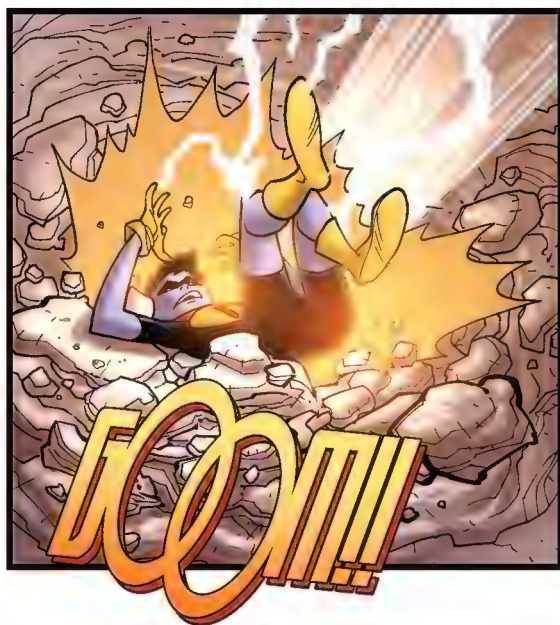
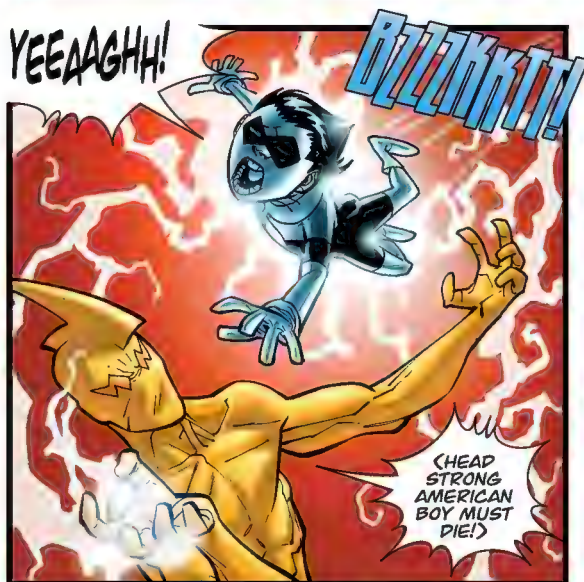
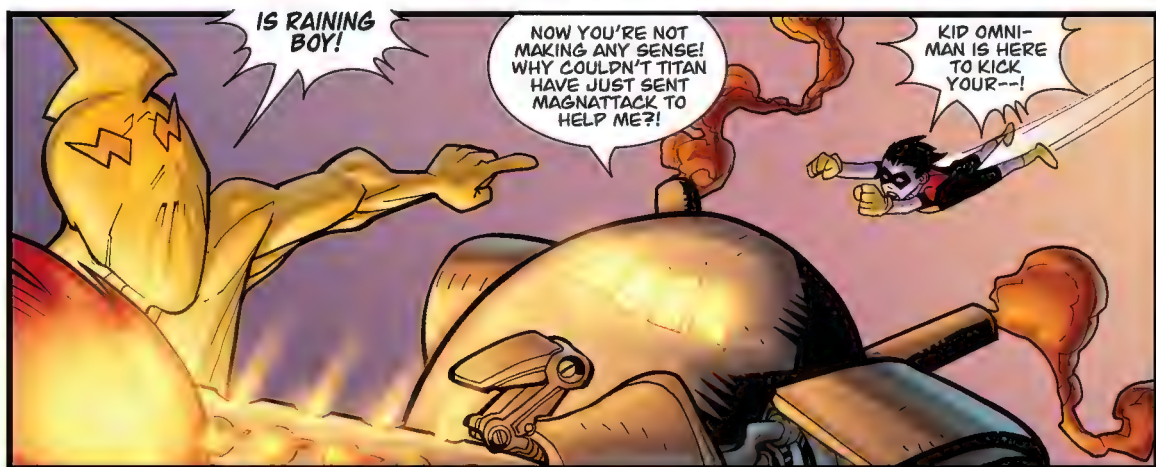
REMEMBER TO CALL
ME "INVINCIBLE" AND
I'LL CALL YOU "OMNI-
BOY." NO REAL
NAMES.

KID
OMNI-
MAN.

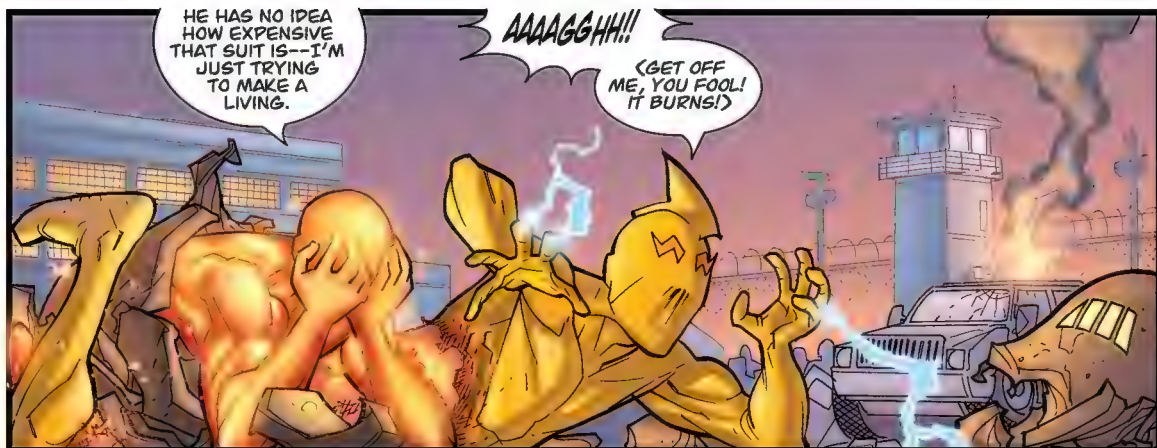
WHATEVER.
JUST HANG
BACK A LITTLE
AND BE CAREFUL.
I DON'T WANT
YOU GETTING
HURT.

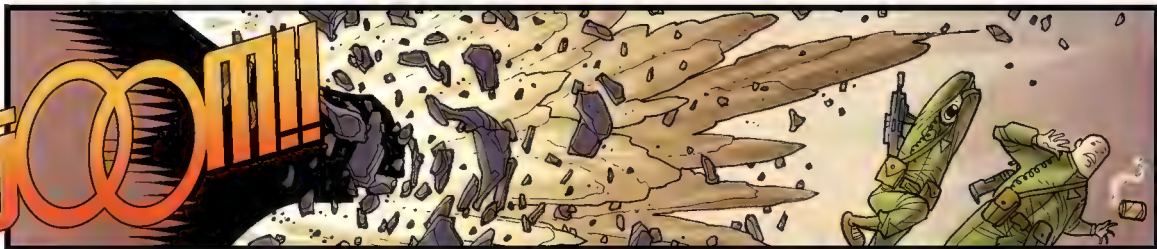
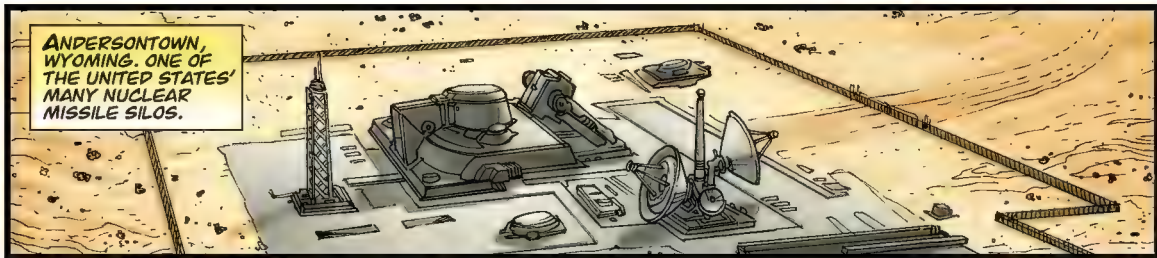
YEAH--
I'LL HANG
BACK.

SURE.

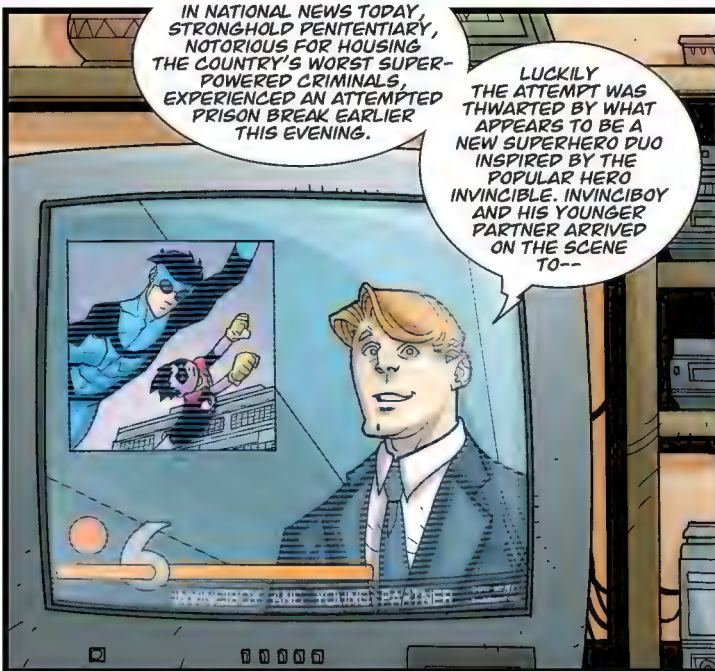
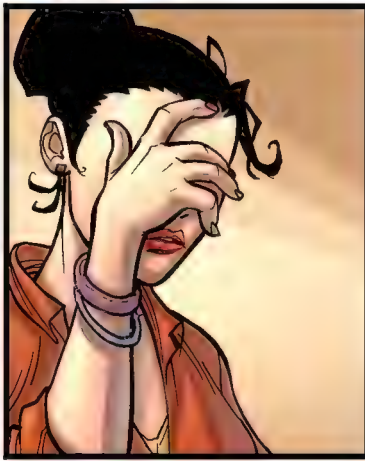
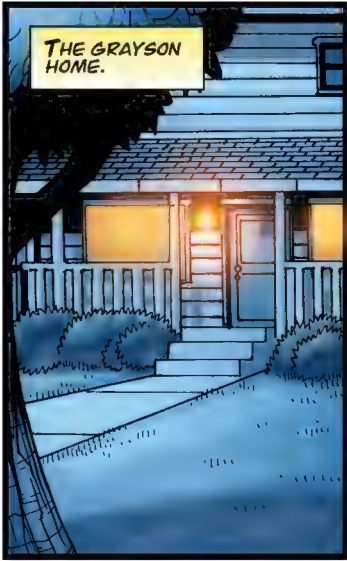


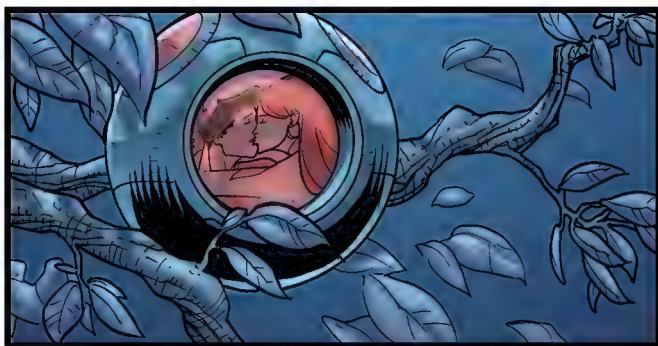
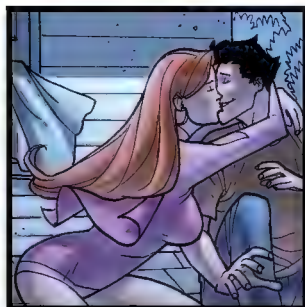
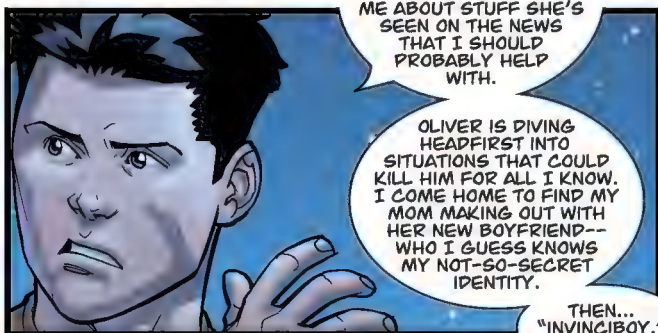
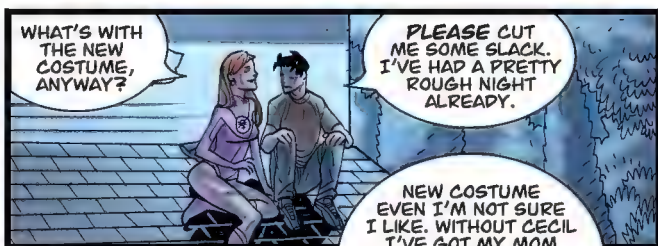














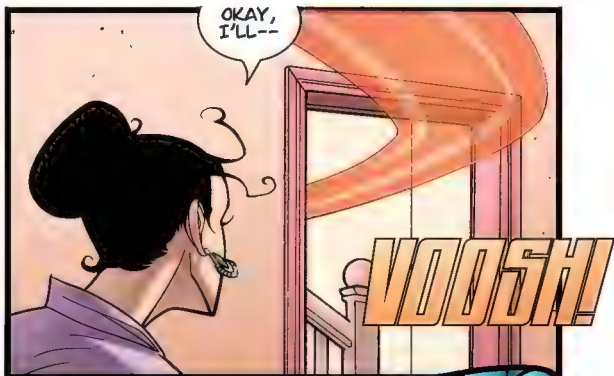
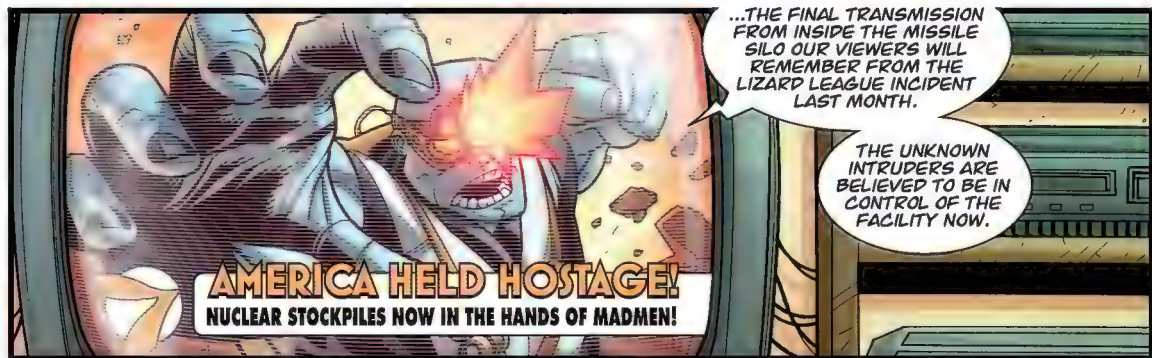
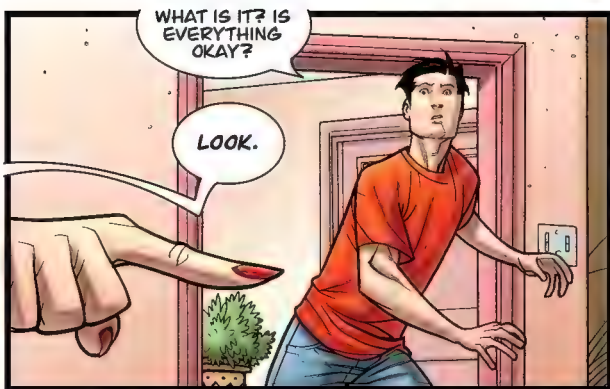
YOUNG
LOVE...

...HOW
INTERESTING.



CHAPTER FIVE







I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED--

OF COURSE IT WORKED. WE BUILT THAT GUN. I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK.

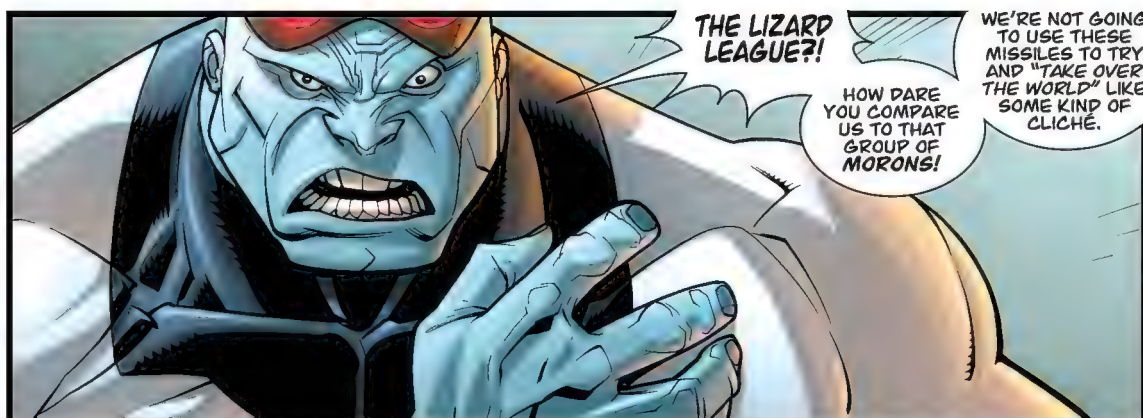
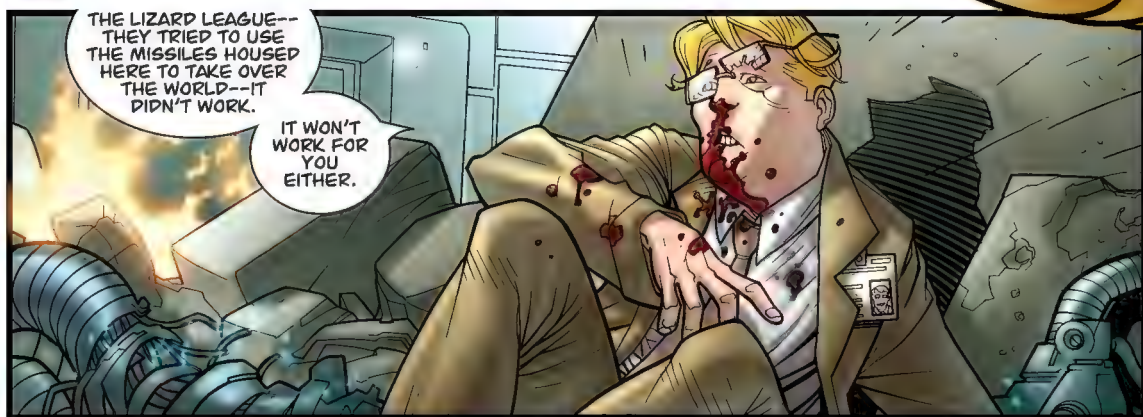
SO WELL. YOU CUT ME OFF. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED SO WELL.

I TOLD YOU IT WOULD WORK THAT WELL.

I THINK I'M THE ORIGINAL CLONE. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING FROM EXTENSIVE DEGRADATION.

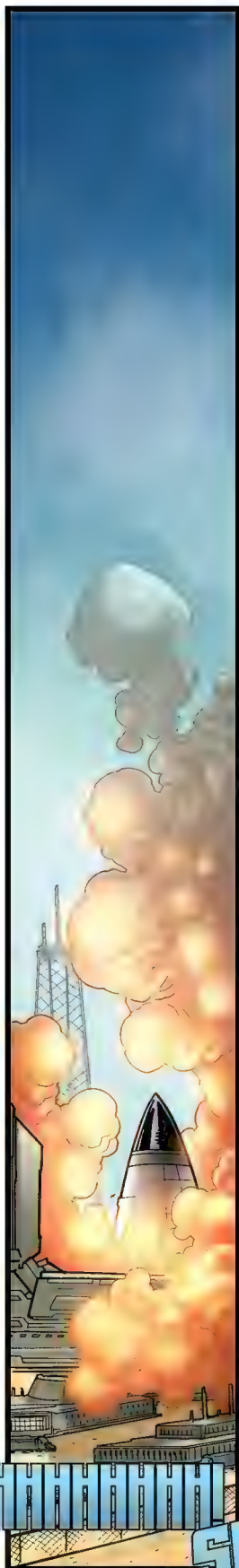
WON'T WORK. WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING... SOMEONE WILL STOP YOU. SOMEONE--









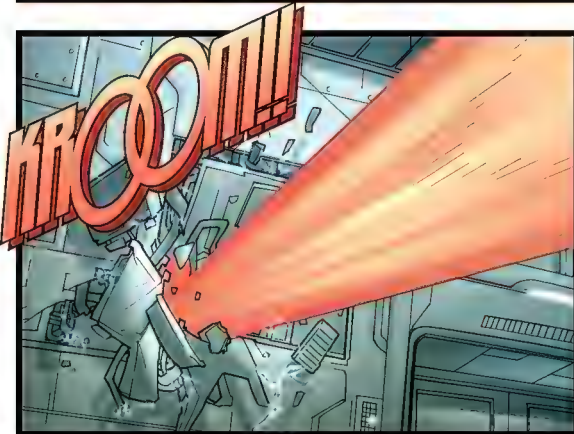
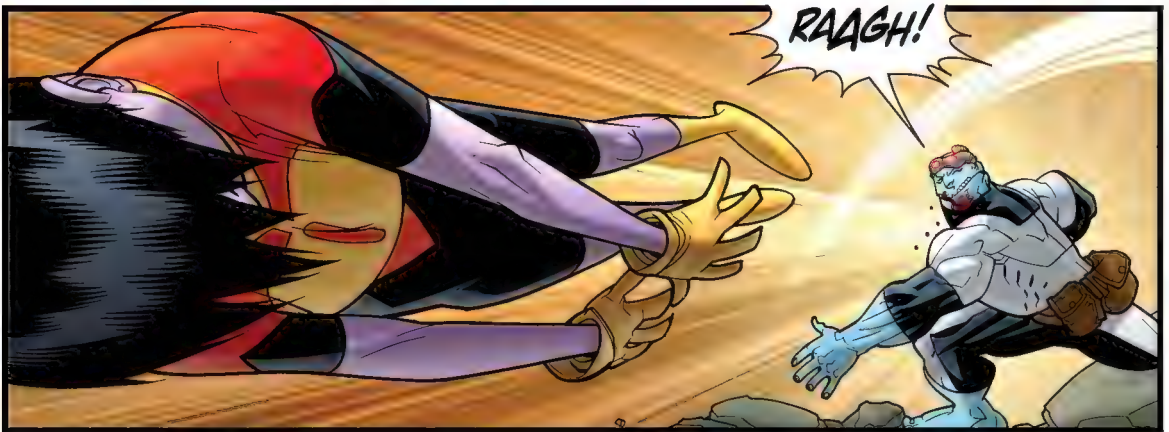


THEY'VE
FIRED THE
MISSILE!

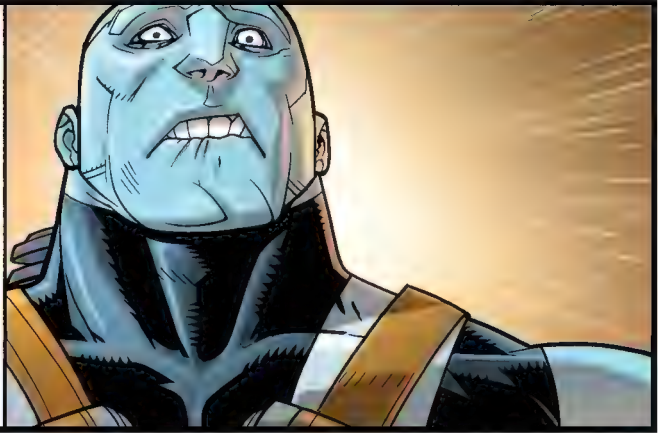
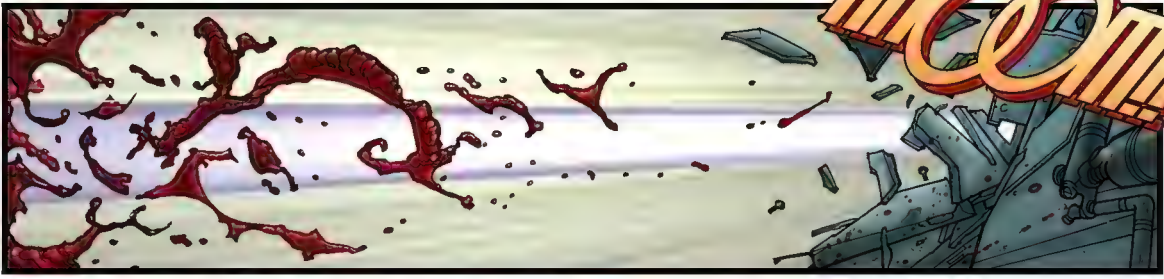
YOU CAN'T
FIGHT THESE
GUYS ALONE--
JUST RUN!

I'M GOING
AFTER IT! GET
OUT OF HERE,
KID OMNI-
MAN!

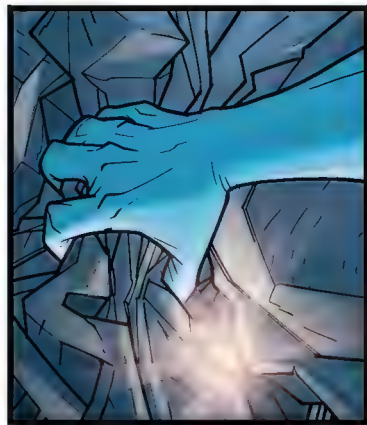
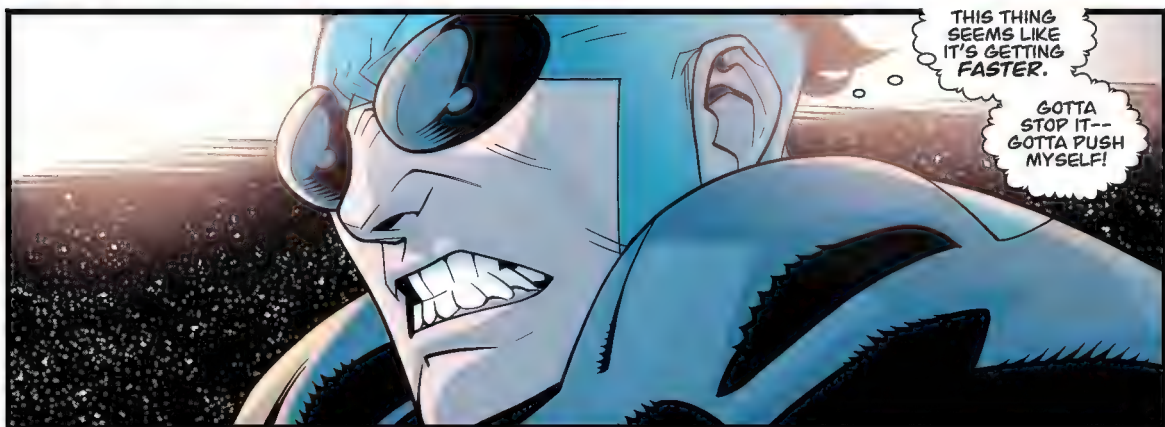
SHHHHHHHH!!
SHHHHHHHHHH!!



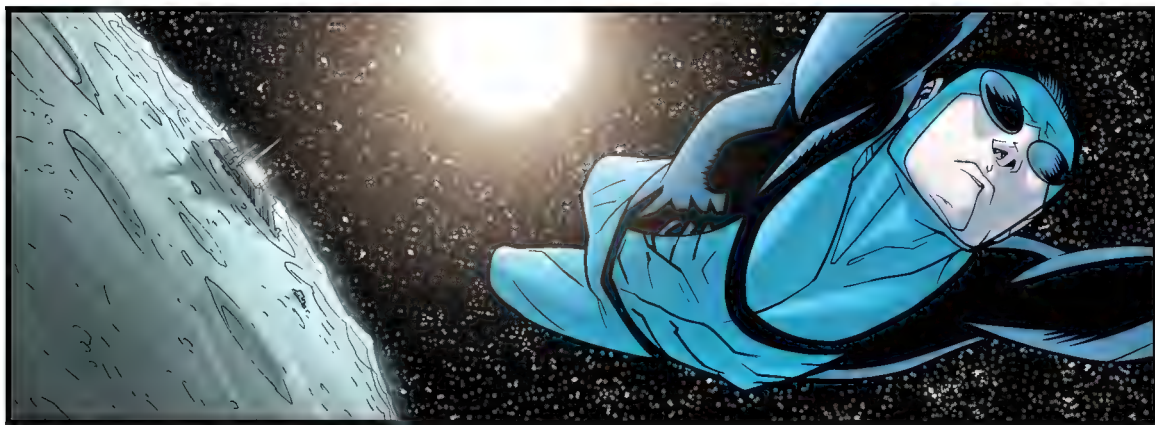


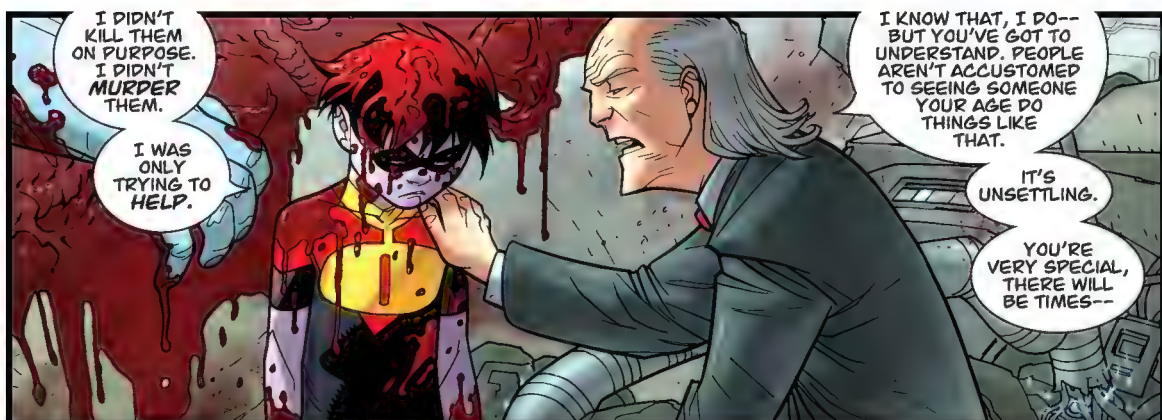




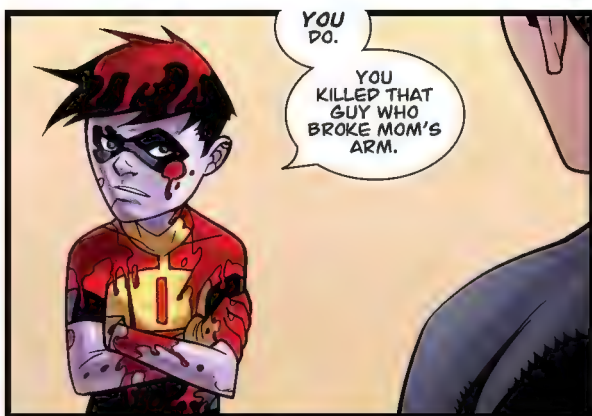


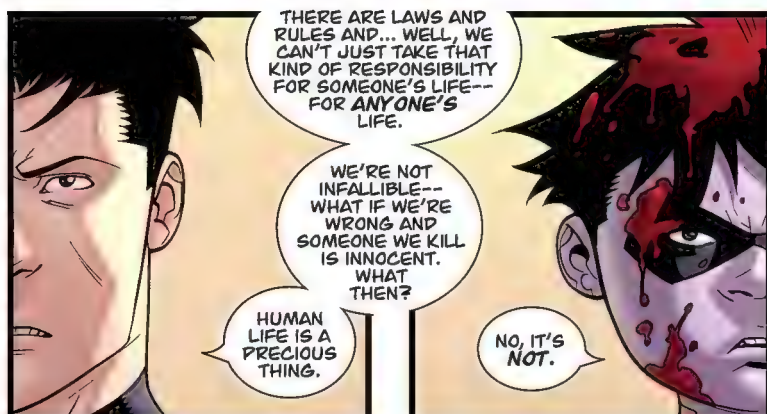










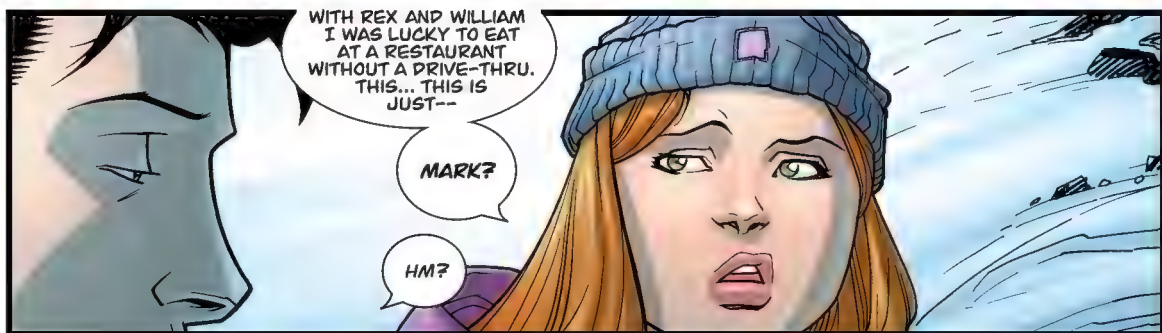
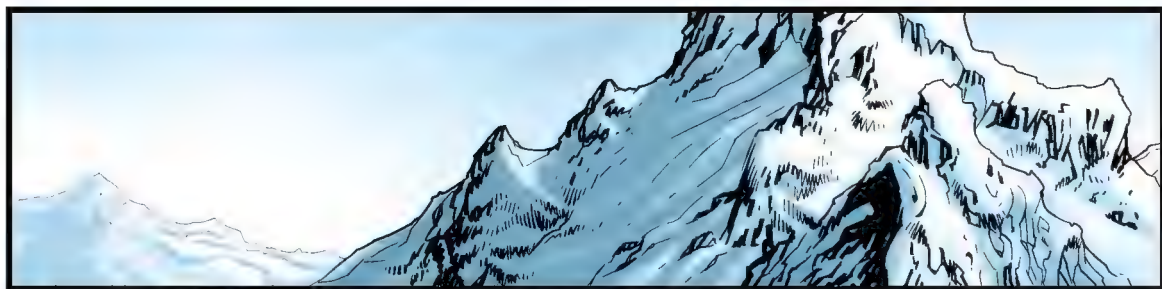


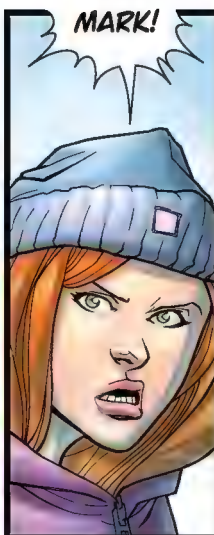




CHAPTER SIX







WHAT? NO. I CAN'T DO THAT. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SPECIAL. I HATE THAT I'VE RUINED THE MOMENT AS MUCH AS I HAVE ALREADY.

NO WAY.



WHOA--I'M NOT SOME STUPID GIRL YOU HAVE TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS FOR TO KEEP HAPPY. I'M ATOM FRICKIN' EVE-- I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.

LET'S GO.

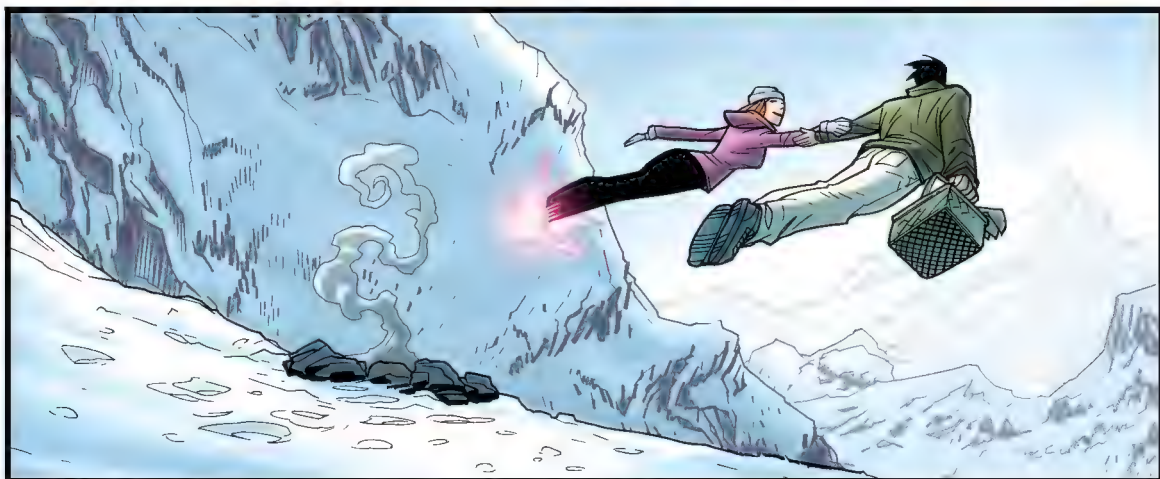
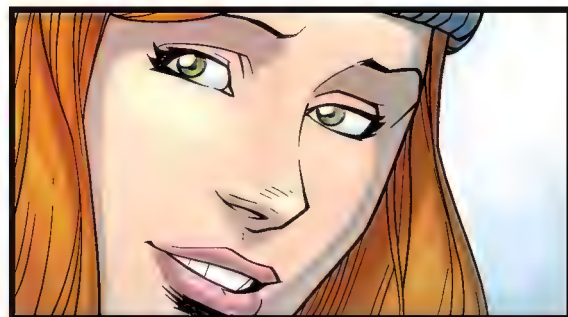
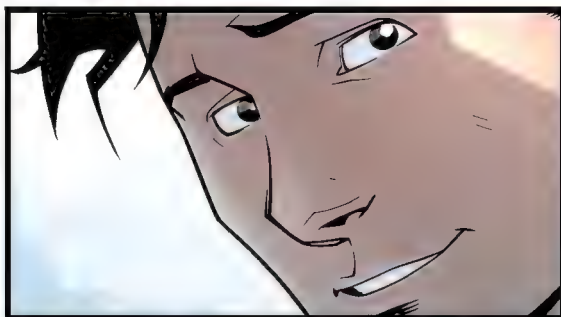
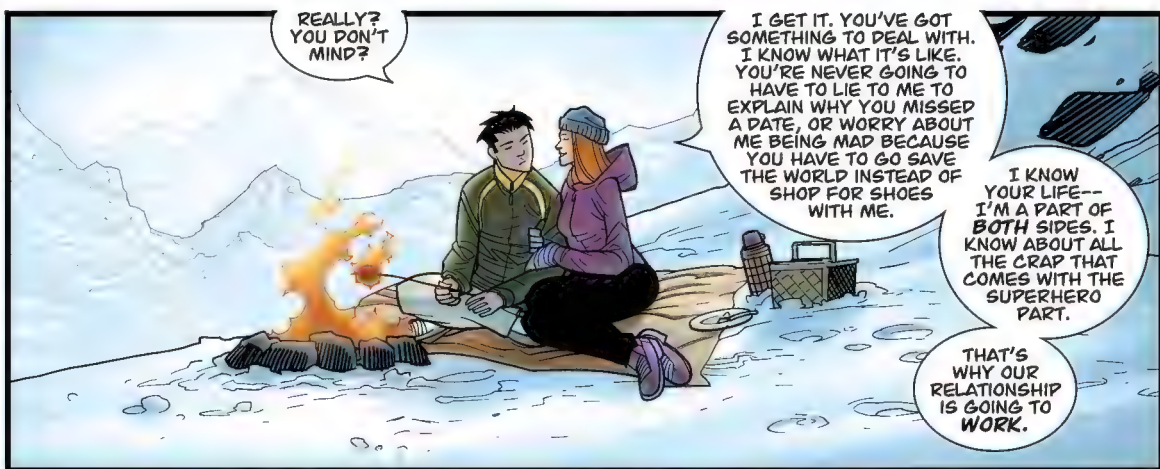


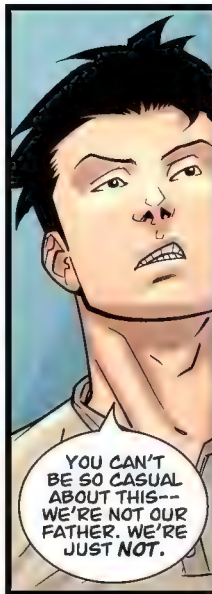
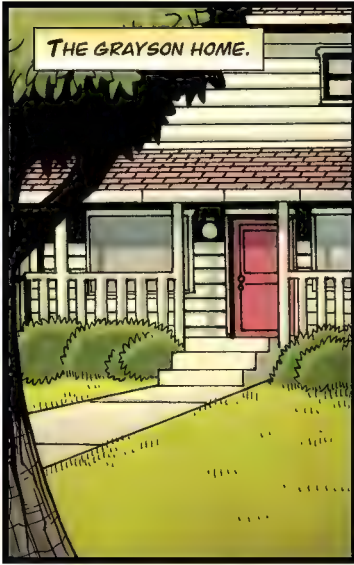
REALLY? YOU DON'T MIND?

I GET IT. YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DEAL WITH. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO HAVE TO LIE TO ME TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU MISSED A DATE, OR WORRY ABOUT ME BEING MAD BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO GO SAVE THE WORLD INSTEAD OF SHOP FOR SHOES WITH ME.

I KNOW YOUR LIFE-- I'M A PART OF BOTH SIDES. I KNOW ABOUT ALL THE CRAP THAT COMES WITH THE SUPERHERO PART.

THAT'S WHY OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GOING TO WORK.





I'M NOT FROM THIS PLANET, MARK. I'M NOT EVEN PARTIALLY HUMAN. I DON'T RELATE TO THESE PEOPLE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE PEOPLE AND IN ALL BUT A FEW CASES I DON'T LIKE THESE PEOPLE.

WHERE I COME FROM, THE GREATER GOOD AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE ARE VASTLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE INDIVIDUAL. MY PEOPLE LIVED SUCH A SHORT TIME--LIFE WAS MEANT TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR OTHERS.

EVERYONE HERE IS SO SELFISH AND SELF-CENTERED. IT'S DISGUSTING.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. YOU'VE LIVED HERE MUCH LONGER THAN YOU EVER LIVED WITH YOUR MOTHER'S PEOPLE.

YOU WERE JUST A BABY--

YOU KNOW I HAVE COMPLETE RECOLLECTION OF EVERYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFE. I CAN REMEMBER CONVERSATIONS HELD DURING MY BIRTH.

I CAN--

STOP IT-- JUST STOP IT!

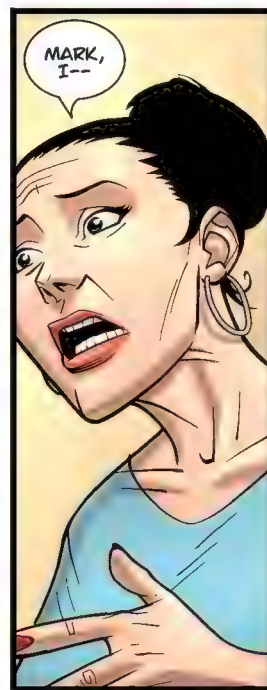
YOU'RE A CHILD--YOU'RE JUST A KID! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK--WHAT YOU FEEL! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE TALKING LIKE THIS!

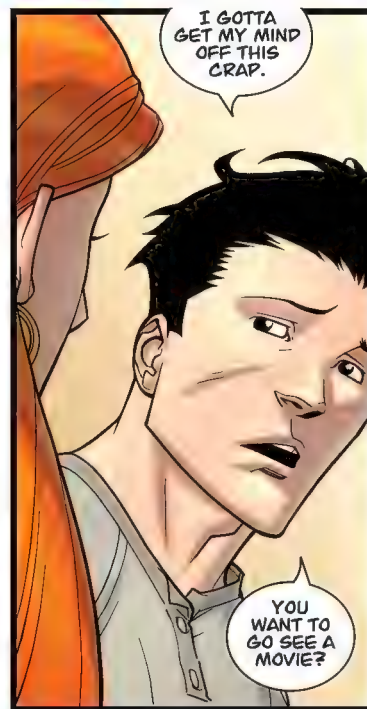
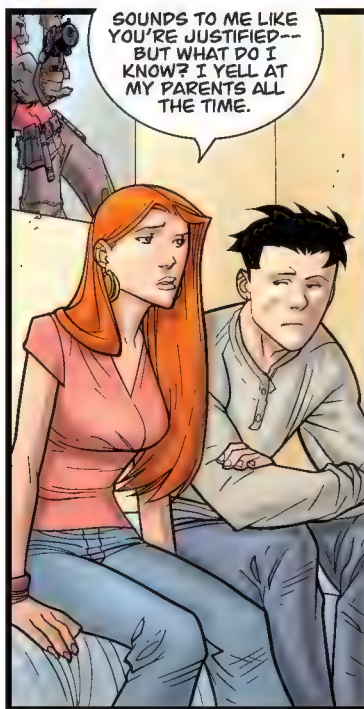
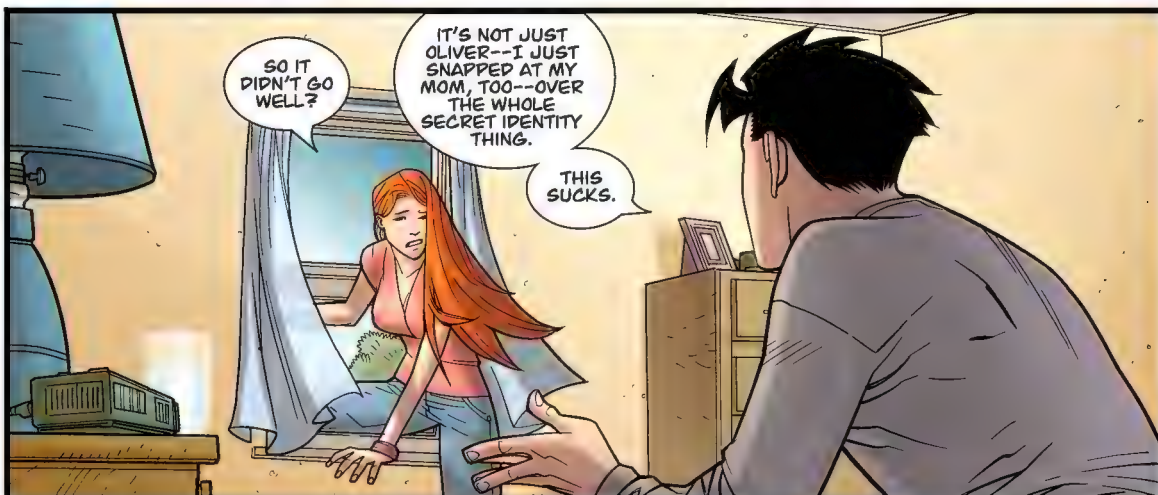
YOUR MIND ISN'T MADE UP ON THESE PEOPLE--ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IS FROM READING BOOKS AND WATCHING TV. THAT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

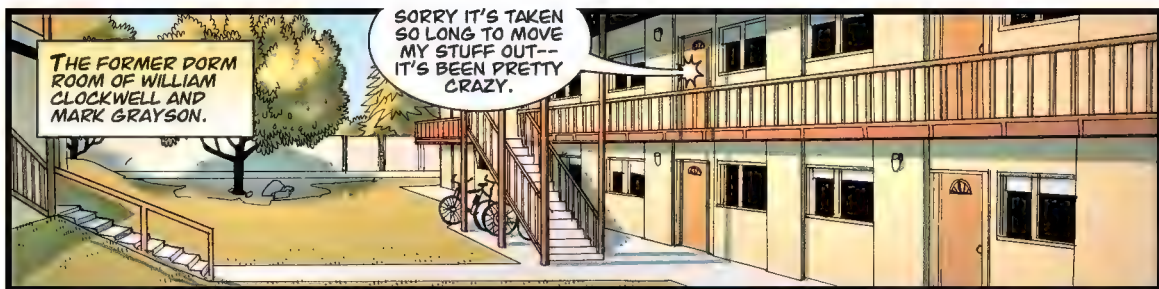
MARK, I RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE. I'VE HAD THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO--

NO, JUST-- STOP. STOP.

WE'LL CONTINUE THIS LATER.







THE FORMER DORM ROOM OF WILLIAM CLOCKWELL AND MARK GRAYSON.

SORRY IT'S TAKEN SO LONG TO MOVE MY STUFF OUT-- IT'S BEEN PRETTY CRAZY.



I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE HERE TODAY-- I THINK THIS STUFF WAS GOING TO BE ON THE CURB TOMORROW. I'M MOVING OUT, TOO.

I CAN SEE THAT. ONE SECOND.



OKAY-- THAT'S THE LAST OF IT.

WHERE ARE YOU MOVING?



I'M MOVING IN WITH RICK SHERIDAN. HE'S HAVING TROUBLE BEING ALONE-- AFTER BEING TURNED INTO HALF A KILLER ROBOT. HIS ROOMMATE MOVED OUT AND, WELL, HE'S GOT AN AWESOME PLACE SO...

YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP ME? IT SURE WOULD MAKE THE MOVE GO FASTER.

SURE, NO PROBLEM. I GOTTA HURRY THOUGH-- I WAS GOING TO DO A LITTLE PATROLLING TODAY.

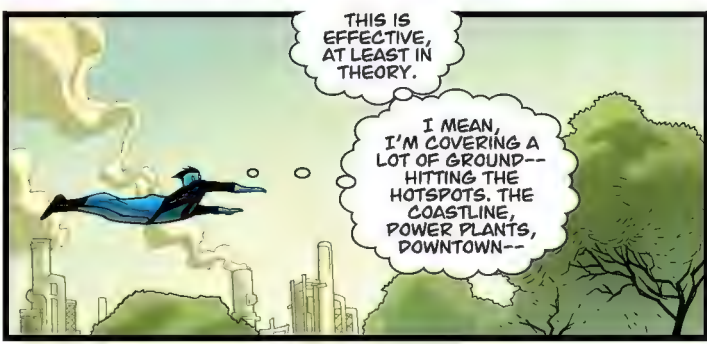


THIS SUCKS.



CECIL WAS OUT OF LINE--AND I'M GLAD TO BE RID OF HIM, BUT AT LEAST WITH HIM, I COULD READ A BOOK UNTIL I GOT THE CALL.

PATROLLING--SHEESH.



THIS IS EFFECTIVE, AT LEAST IN THEORY.

I MEAN, I'M COVERING A LOT OF GROUND-- HITTING THE HOTSPOTS. THE COASTLINE, POWER PLANTS, DOWNTOWN--



STRONGHOLD PENITENTIARY.

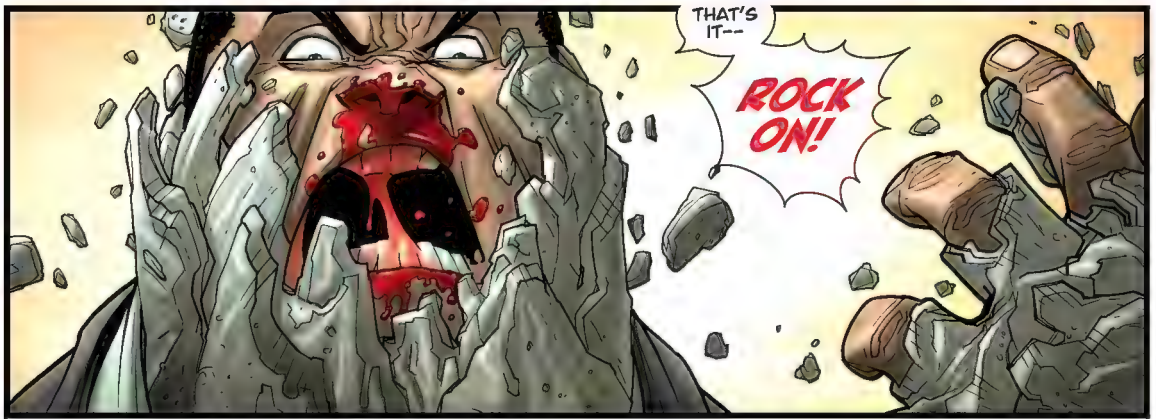
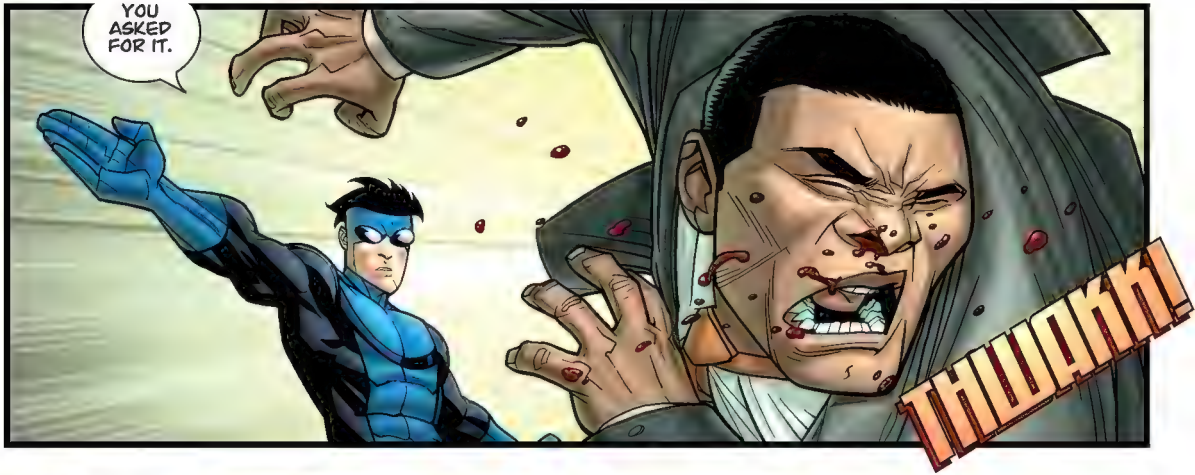


HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, TITAN. I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU TAKING OVER MACHINE HEAD'S ORGANIZATION AFTER I HELPED YOU FIGHT HIM.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU?

STEP ASIDE, INVINCIBLE.



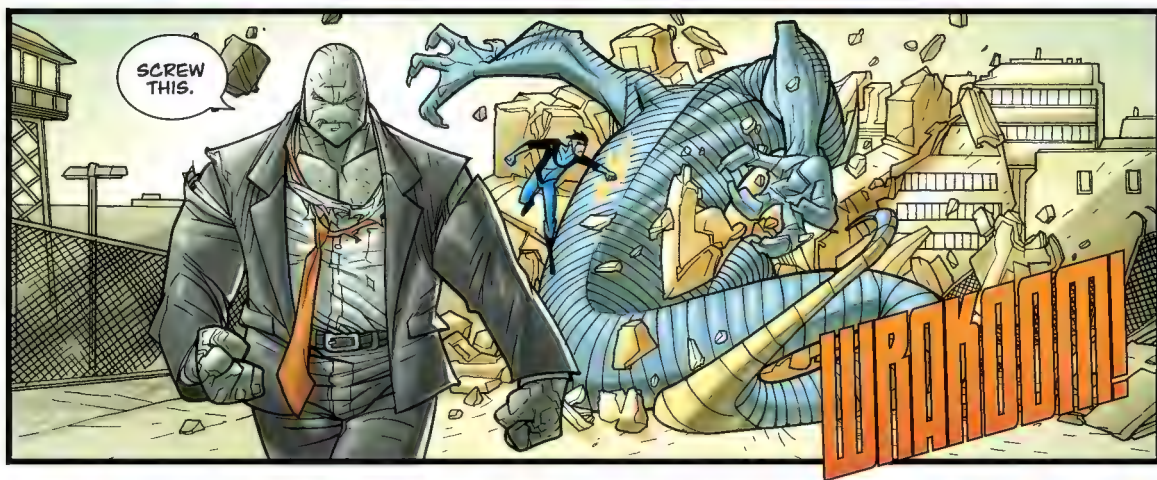
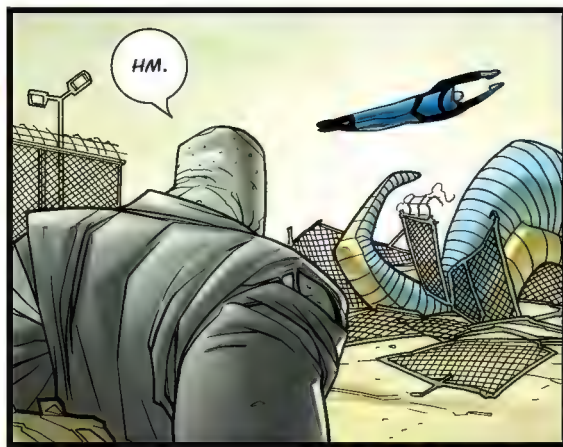
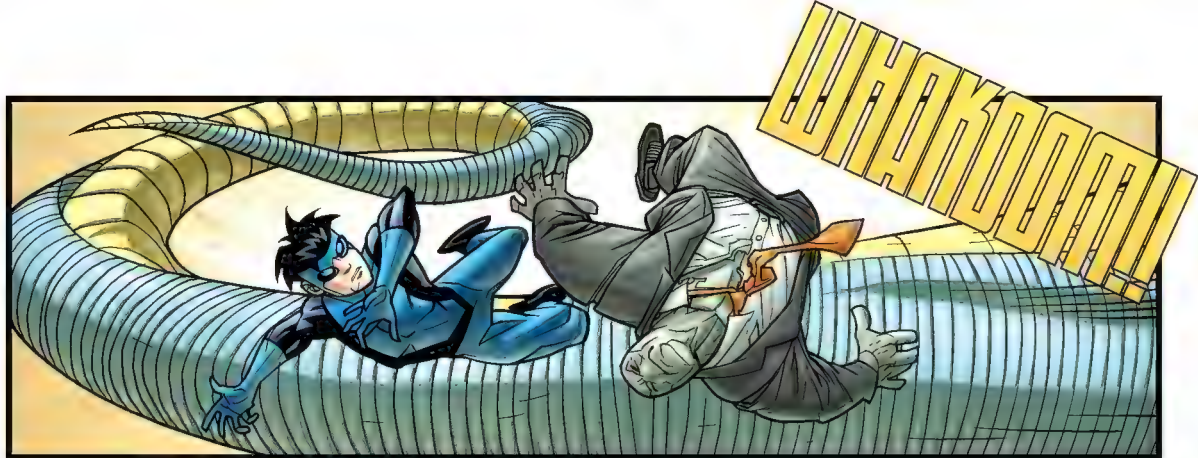


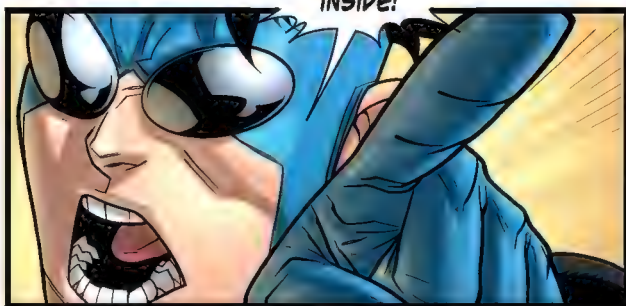
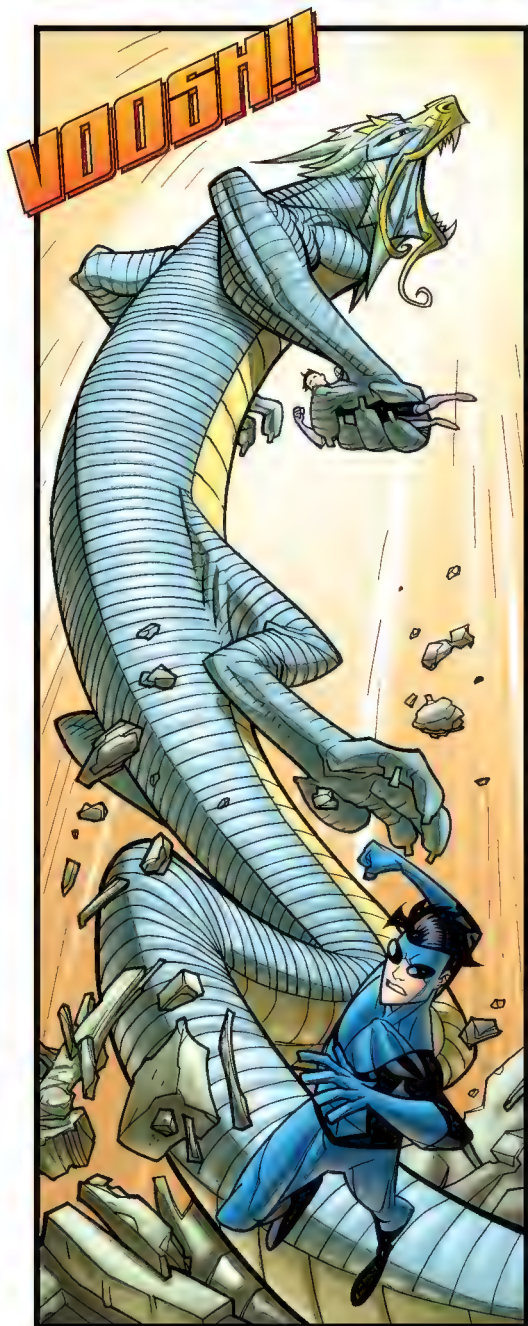
TITAN!

I'VE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH--
YOUR TIME
IS UP!



SHROOKKA-DOOM!







LATER.

WHAT?!

YOU DID NOT RECOGNIZE MY SOUL PROJECTION THEN? IT WAS I WHO DID WHAT YOU COULD NOT. MY AGENT IS FREE--AND YOU HAVE FAILED ME AND FAILED THE ORDER.

CONSIDER YOUR MEMBERSHIP REVOKED.

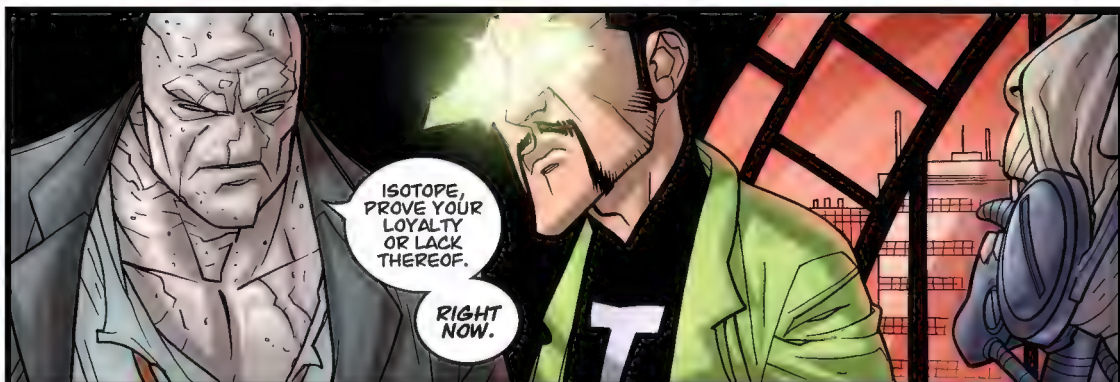
MISTER LIU, I--



YOU, TITAN, WILL BE TURNING OVER YOUR ENTIRE OPERATION TO THE ORDER. YOU FORFEIT YOUR STANDING IN OUR COMMUNITY AND YOU WILL CEASE ALL ACTIVITY AND RETURN TO A LIFE OF MEOCURITY.

THERE ARE NO SECOND CHANCES IN THIS BUSINESS-- YOU'VE SEEN WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.

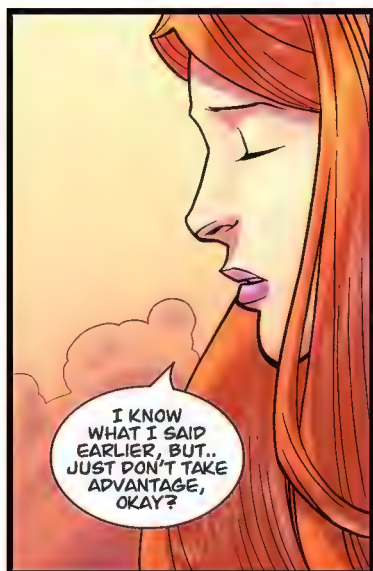
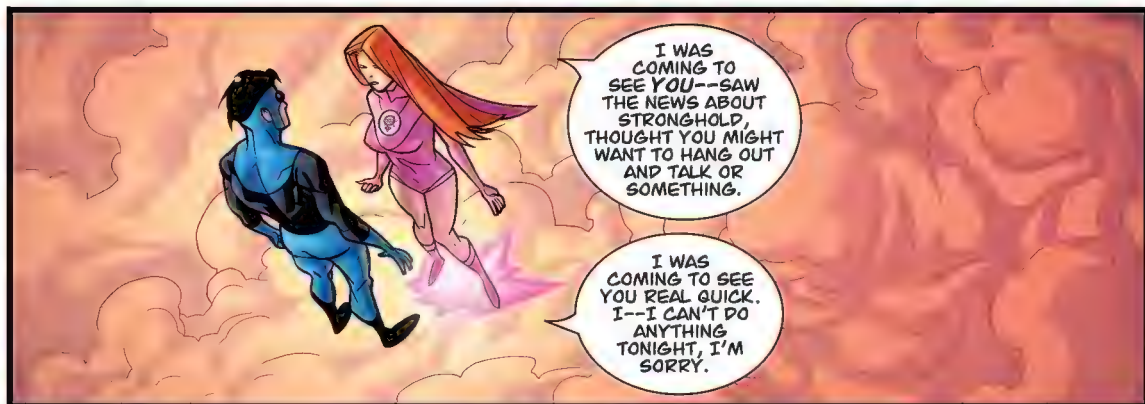
YOU KEEP ONLY YOUR LIFE. RESIST AND THAT TOO WILL BE REVOKED.

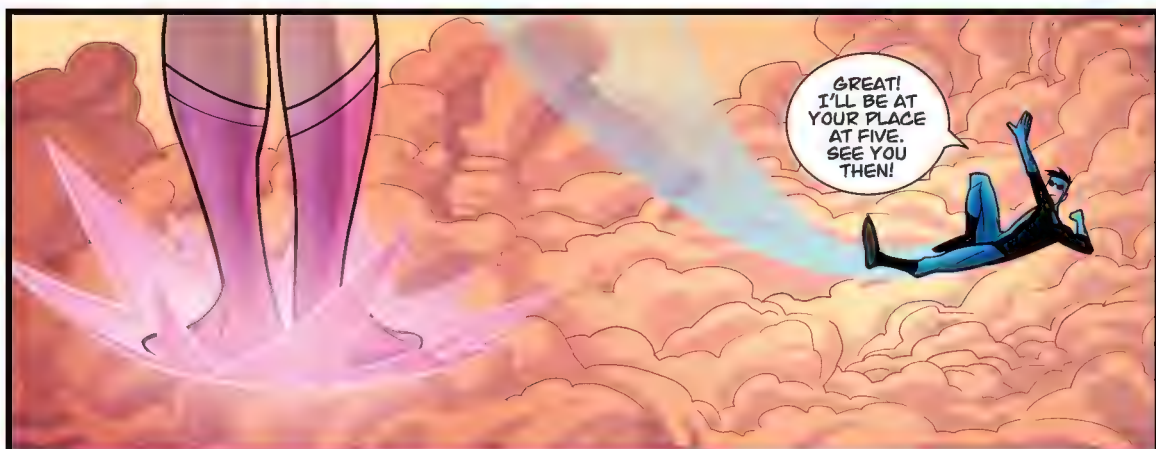
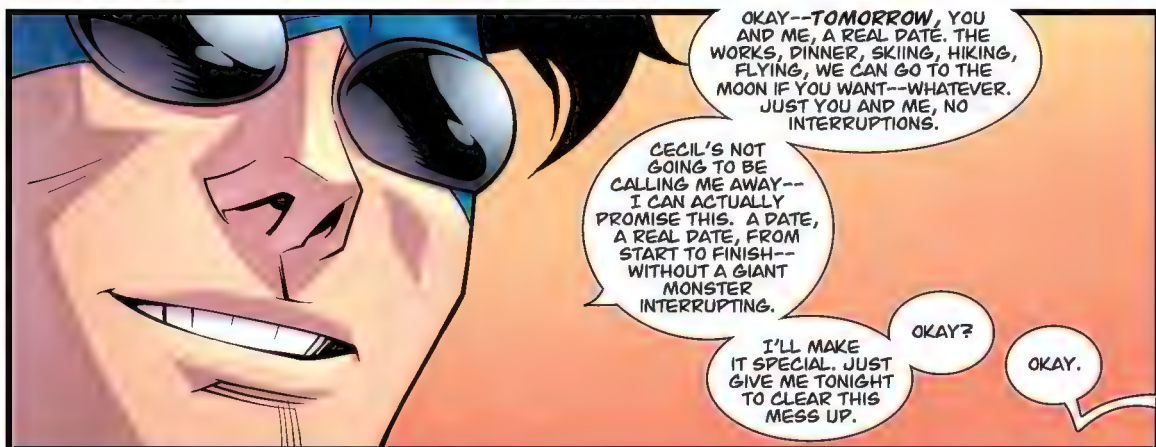
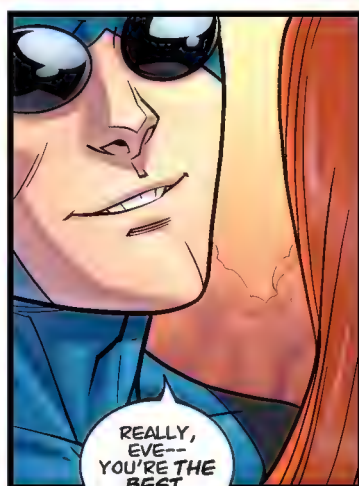
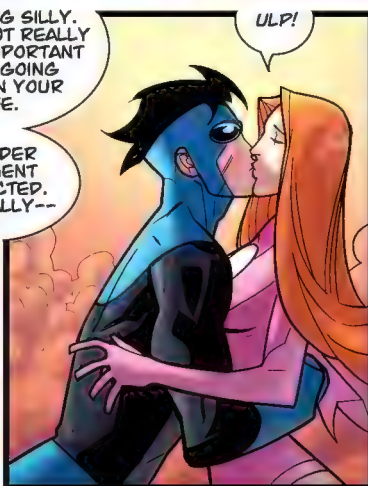
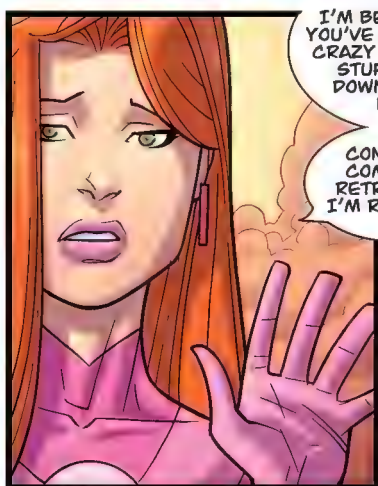


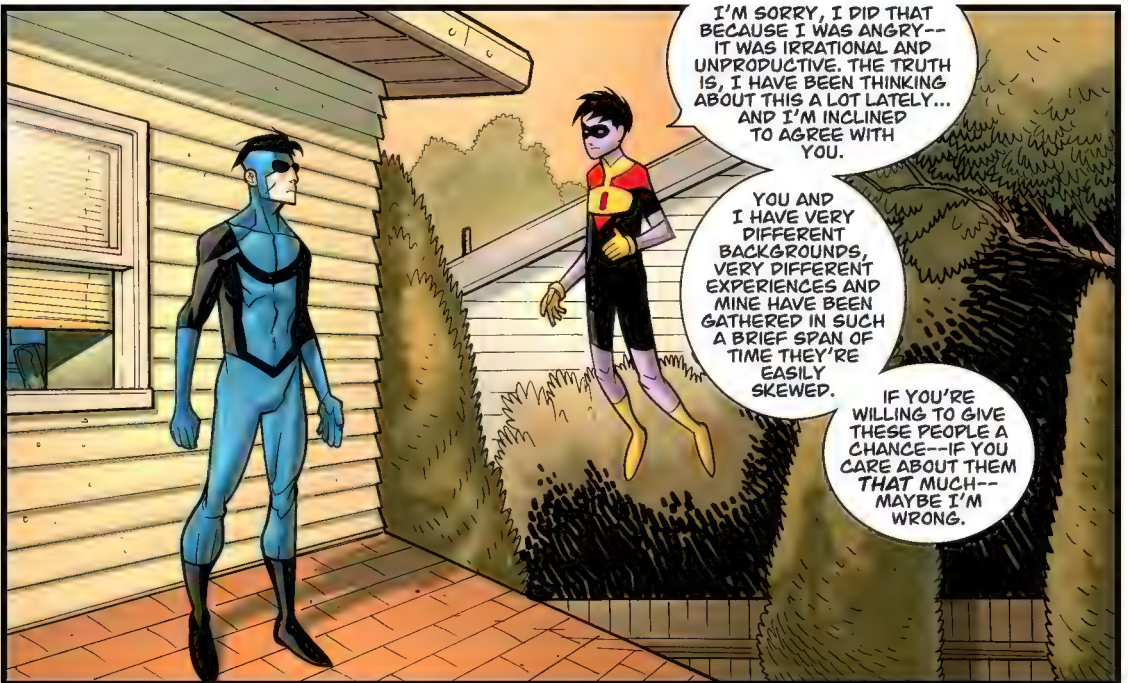
ISOTOPE, PROVE YOUR LOYALTY OR LACK THEREOF.

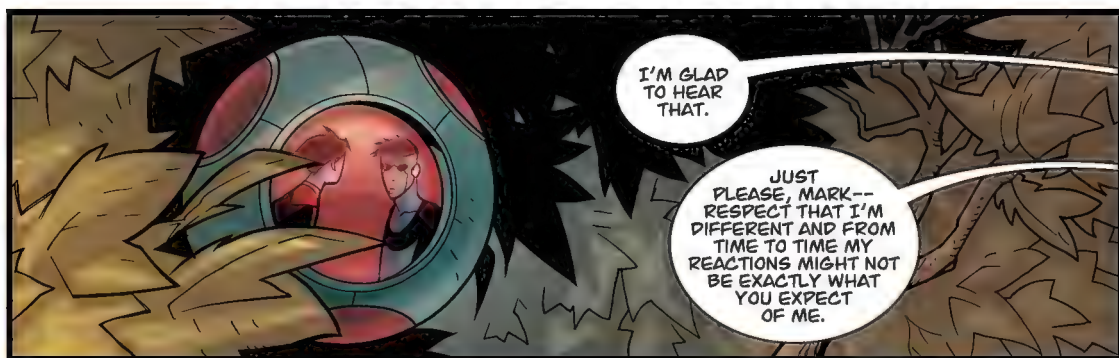
RIGHT NOW.











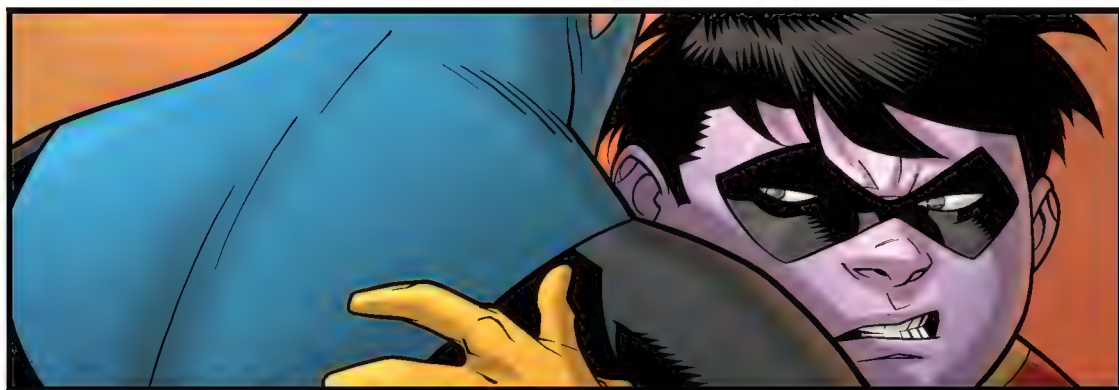
I'M GLAD
TO HEAR
THAT.

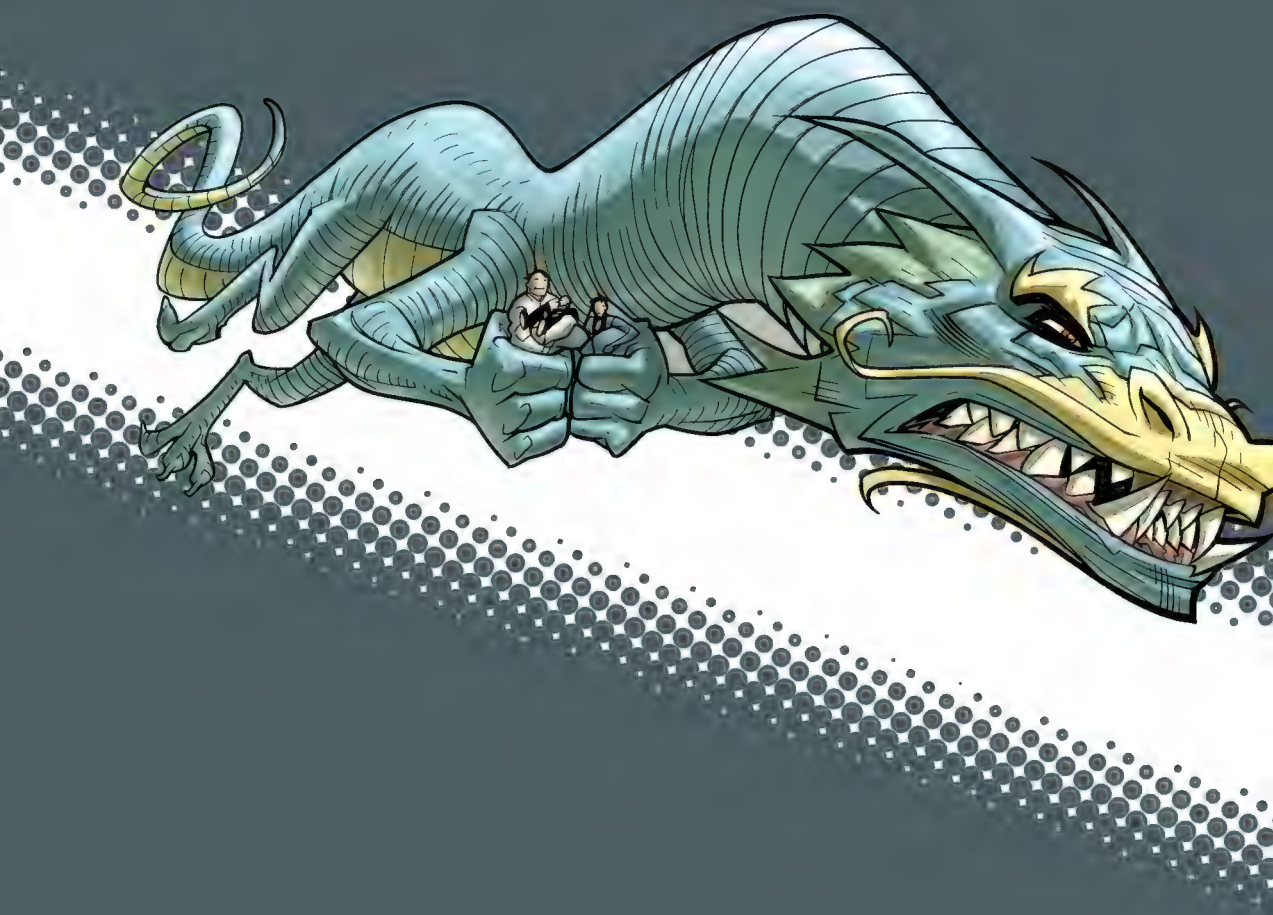
JUST
PLEASE, MARK--
RESPECT THAT I'M
DIFFERENT AND FROM
TIME TO TIME MY
REACTIONS MIGHT NOT
BE EXACTLY WHAT
YOU EXPECT
OF ME.



I CAN DO
THAT.

C'MERE.





SKETCHBOOK

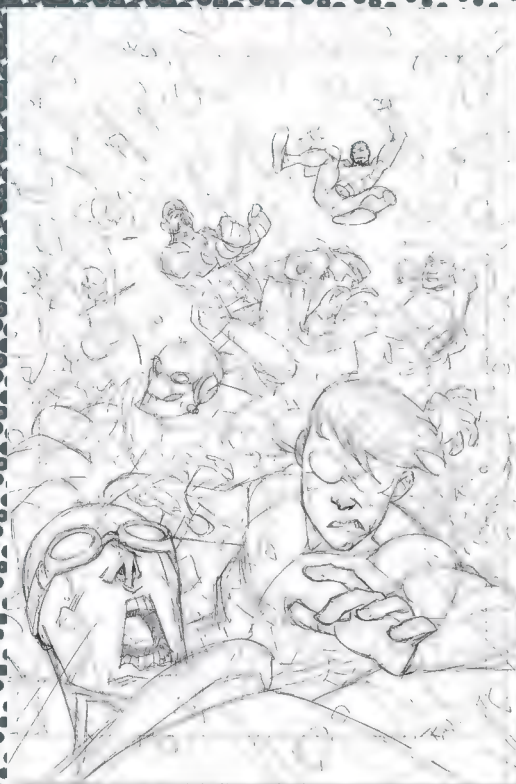


ROBERT KIRKMAN: On this page you'll find the cover for the Volume 10 trade paperback. I've got to say, this is by far, my favorite TPB cover. Ryan Ottley did an **AMAZING** job on it. It's stunning, I love it. On the following page, you'll see the inks in all their uncolored glory.

RYAN OTTLEY: Aw, thanks Robert. Ya got me all bashful.

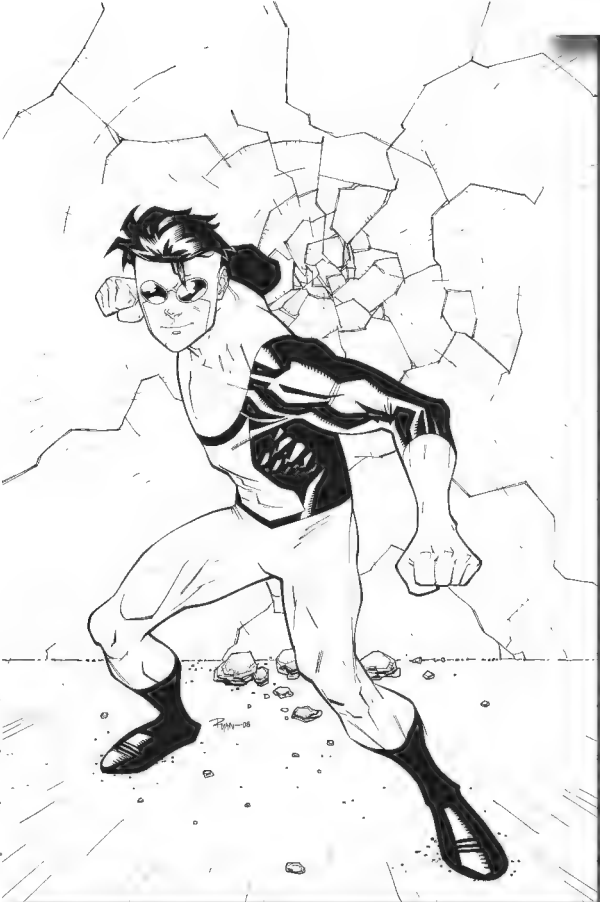






KIRKMAN: Here's some prelim work for the covers to 48 and 49. Fun fact, the covers to 48, 49 and 50 were colored by my pal Val Staples. He did a bang up, job, too--I'm very fond of these three covers.

OTTLEY: I love these covers too, especially 49. Val gave it a lot of depth doing that fade thing. Thanks Val!



KIRKMAN: When Ryan originally did the pencils for the cover to issue 50, he had Cecil sitting on both his feet. I thought it looked like Cecil had knelt before Invincible--so I had him move the leg. FUN!

OTTLEY: The leg change helped it I think. He looks like he collapsed much harder and off balance. Good idea Robert, you should really sign these covers with me when you give good advice like this. HAHAAAA! ahem.

KIRKMAN: Groan! When issue 51 sold out so quickly, we immediately went back to press with a second printing. It was a blast seeing Ryan redraw Cory Walker's cover for issue one, with the new costume. I don't remember whose idea it was, but I'm pretty sure it wasn't mine. On the next page, you can see it in full color.

OTTLEY: It was most definitely your idea. Robert called me up and was telling me we need a variant cover, he didn't know what I should draw but he knew he wanted me to "make it look cool". When he doesn't have ideas this is usually his suggestion. And then BAM it hit him and he started talking super fast with excitement and this is usually the time when his Kentucky accent really gets kicked up a notch! He said "I know, I know, re-draw Cory's first cover exactly but with the blue costume! Yeehaw!" And so I did. I thought it was a great idea, Robert has a lot of those. *hug*

KIRKMAN: YEEHAW!



INVINCIBLE CIR JIM LEE



KIRKMAN: HOLY CRAP Jim Lee did a cover for us. I can't express how excited I was when he said yes. Jim is a totally cool dude. I owe him a ton for doing this for us and then he up and mailed me the original art when he was done! I couldn't believe it. If you see my writing a book for Wildstorm someday... that's why.

OTTLEY: Yeah this was nice, ya gotta love Jim Lee. I love that he did this for us. I didn't get any free art though, unless you count the interior pages which I drew. In that sense I made out like a bandit!

KIRKMAN: He asked me if you wanted it and I said no.

INVINCIBLE CIR JIM LEE





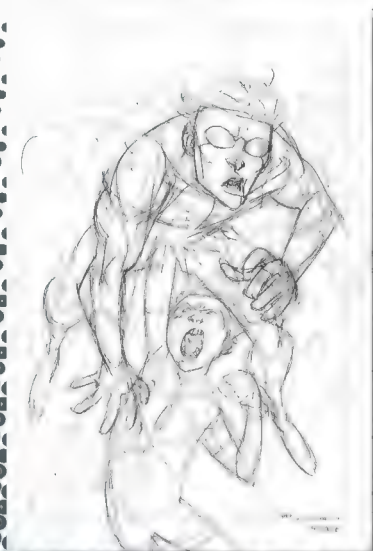
KIRKMAN: Holy crud, the cover to Invincible 52 was the cover that just wouldn't die! Ryan did the original version, of Oliver and Mark fighting in the clouds, and he hated it... right Ryan?

OTTLEY: HA! Hated it. Loathed it. I even gave it away for free. It's the only cover I've ever done that with. I was just having some artist block, it happens from time to time. But this cover was the worst. I remember I was extremely tired but I just had to finish the cover that day even though I wasn't feeling it. It seems you need energy to draw something energetic, I started with the figures and when I was done I almost tore it up. But instead I had the brilliant idea to try and "save" it by adding crappy clouds or smoke to cover up part of the figures. I was done and fine with it so I scanned it and sent it off to Robert. The next morning I looked at it and couldn't believe I drew that. I called Robert up super quick and said "Robert, I HATE that cover, please please please don't ever show that to anybody, I refuse to let that go as a cover, I don't even want it in the sketchbook section of the Trades or Hardcover!" He said it looked fine to him but he agreed to my wishes. Aaaaaaaaand then the issue comes out, and somebody screwed up and had that black and white crappy cover as the pin-up in this issue. Not only that but there was a retailer variant cover that Image wanted for this issue and asked Robert for another image. He gave them this crappy cover, so it was the cover AND the pin-up and NOW it's in the sketchbook section. I don't know if Robert is trying to get back at me for something, but that's all I can come up with.

KIRKMAN: Oh, sorry about that. I forgot you said you didn't want anyone to see it. So anyway, then you went and did the cover where you swiped that McFarlane cover of Spider-Man fighting the Hulk... what were you thinking?!

OTTLEY: I don't know. Something is wrong with me maybe. The comic I was homaging was the first comic I ever read, Amazing Spider-Man 328, a McFarlane cover. So since that comic always really meant something to me I thought I'd do it for my first ever homage. Seems like during an artists block ya get pretty desperate to do something good but everything turns out lame.

KIRKMAN: I would have used it, it's a great drawing, but we were so early in our new costume stage, I didn't want to do an homage cover... Invincible looked pretty dopey on this cover... and I wanted him to look cool, to help sell the new costume... so on to version three!





KIRKMAN: This version, the final version... was pretty cool. I dug it. Not my favorite cover ever, but it's a good shot of them fighting. And then, to make things even more awesome, when the issue came out—this scene didn't even technically appear in the book! The idea was always to have them training in this issue, but on the cover it'd look like they were fighting... and with all the business with the Mauler Twins in this issue, I didn't have room for the training scenes I'd planned. Heh. It happens...

OTTLEY: The violent physical struggle on the cover was symbolic of the verbal confrontation that would take place in this issue. Or something like that.

KIRKMAN: Damn, you're good.

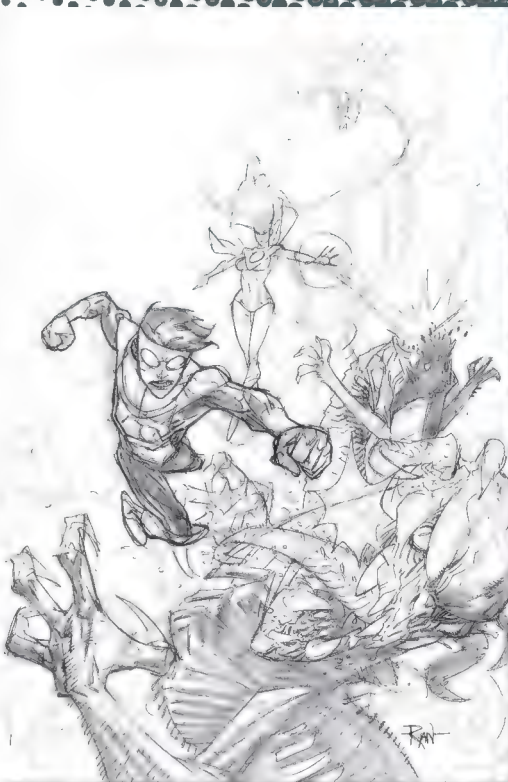
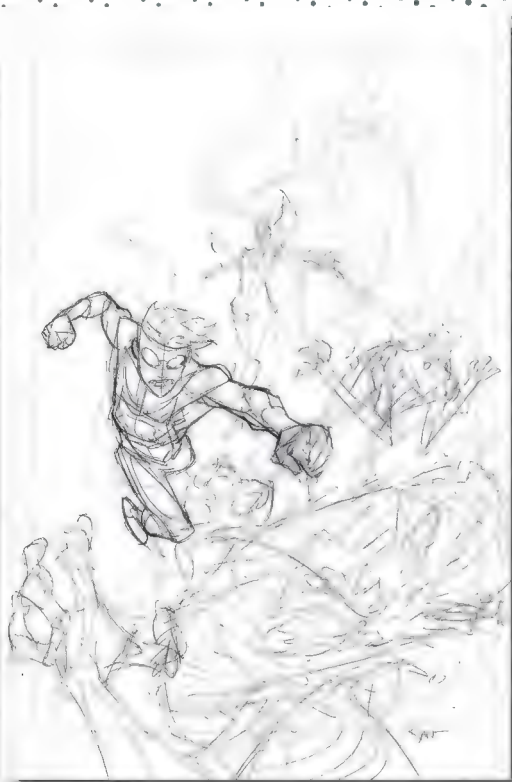




KIRKMAN: The cover to *Invincible* 53, on the other hand... was **AWESOME.**

OTTLEY: *You are.*

KIRKMAN: No, you.



KIRKMAN: This is Ryan's cover for the **EMERALD CITY COMIC-CON** program book. If you ever want to take a trip to Seattle, come to this con--it's awesome!

OTTLEY: YES! I love Emerald City Con, I can't wait to go again. I was pretty happy when Jim Demonakos asked me to draw the cover for his program book, it really was an honor.

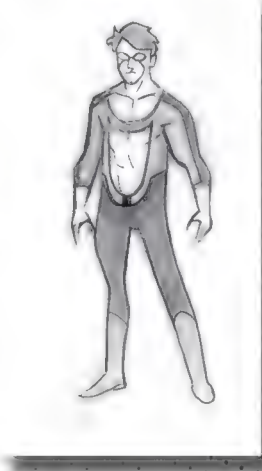
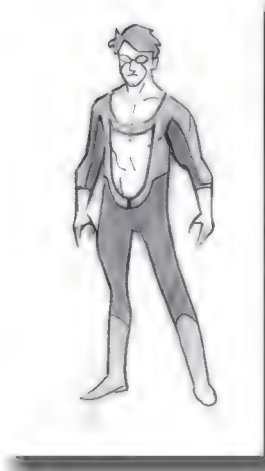
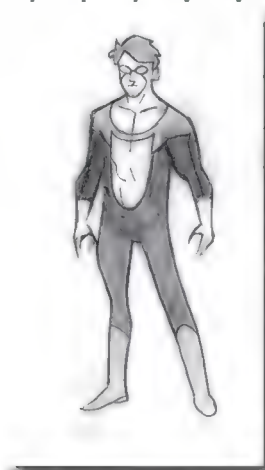
KIRKMAN: We plugged his convention, does he really need a name drop?



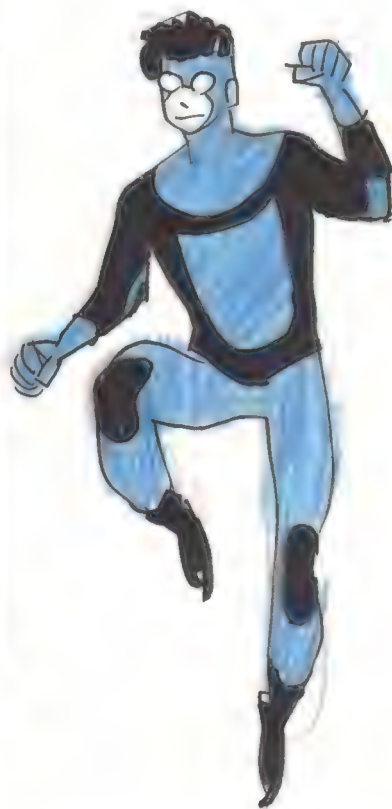
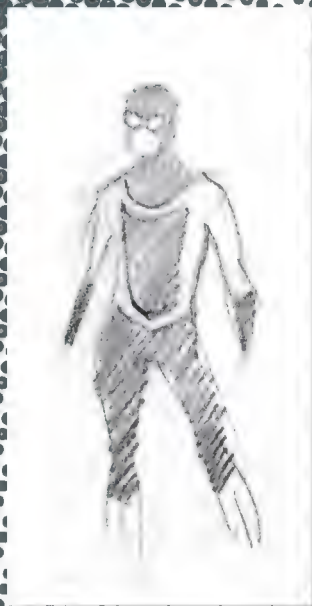


KIRKMAN: Okay... the new costume. I knew that starting with issue 51, I wanted to change Invincible's costume--at least temporarily. I figured, hey--we've made it to issue 50, let's change the costume, that's always fun! So I told co-creator Cory Walker to start thinking about what we could change the costume to. He started with these, no-mask versions... I dig it, but I thought it was too much of a departure.

OTTLEY: *Exactly, everyone would've known it was Mark Grayson, former Burger Mart employee.*



KIRKMAN: Another round of costume changes from Cory. I like all of these, really, but I didn't think they were enough of a change. I wanted something more drastic, like the change from Spider-Man's original costume to the black costume.



KIRKMAN: And that led to Comic-Con 2007, where the plan was for Ryan, Cory and I to sit down in a hotel room and figure out exactly what to do with the costume. Only, Ryan... God love him, was tired and went to bed at 10pm (I'm not even kidding). So what happened was Cory and I sat in the room and worked it all out. The results of which are seen on this page. As you can see, the costume originally had black knee pads, which, in hindsight, we probably should have kept--but y'know, I just didn't like them at the time. So there you have it, that's how we came up with the new costume you all love so much.

FUN FACT: Rob Liefeld stopped by the room later on after Cory left, and when I showed him the design Cory had done, he did a little sketch of his own on the same piece of paper. Neat!

OTTLEY: Yeah I was tired. I get that way from time to time. Mostly at night. I should talk to my Doctor. No, but seriously at cons I do SO many sketches it kills me, I really wanted to go over with you guys and when you called it was 11pm and I was pretty out of it and felt horrible. I promise next time you change the costume I'll be there.



KIRKMAN: Later on, Ryan did this design sheet we see here so that Jim Lee would have reference to do his cover.

OTTLEY: So why didn't we show Jim the sketches that Cory did instead of me re-drawing it? I forget.

KIRKMAN: Uh... I think Cory's sketch was too loose? Also, you wanted to add the points to the bottom of the "I" on his chest. I don't know. As an added bonus, Cory did a sketch much later (after the costume appeared in print) of what we SHOULD have done (man, I like this costume better) and we ended up using this as one of the Evil Invincible's in issue 60.

OTTLEY: Yeah this is one cool design, I can't wait to show some of my design rejects in the sketchbook section of the next trade paperback. I'm glad Cory helped out with a few good designs.





KIRKMAN: Awesome spread from *Invincible* 52 of the Mauler Twins... this page actually appeared in the New York Times. Swank!

OTTLEY: What?!? It did? Where and when? Why don't you ever tell me these things? That would be perfect to show all those non-comic reading adults that sneer when I tell them I draw comicbooks, they'd think I was doing something legit with my life. Seriously tell me what this is in, or send me your copy and I'll forgive you for not telling me about this AND for running that crappy cover in issue 52.

KIRKMAN: It was in the issue that announced I was a partner at Image... my mom has a few extra copies... I'll hook you up. Call me later.





KIRKMAN: Oliver flies through a Mauler Twin. Y'know, some people claim to hate Oliver. I just don't get it. Also, the pencils for the splash page return of the dragon Omni-Man fights on TV in issue one of this series: See kids... nothing goes to waste in this series!! **NOTHING!**

OTTLEY: Yeah, people say I draw violence too violently. We should get Aubrey Sitterson, our Editor in on this part of our little sketchbook section conversation. So Aubrey used to work at Marvel as an Editor and I'm curious if they would say yes or no to something like this. I mean I don't recall seeing too much gore in comics from Marvel but I could be mistaken as maybe I just didn't buy any books with too much in it. Aubrey? Is there a line that one can't cross or is this kind of thing allowed?

SITTERSON: In my experience at Marvel, most content issues were taken on a case-by-case basis depending on the rating, the characters involved, the context of the violence, and about three dozen other variables. But, one of the general no-no's we had was showing exit wounds - so it was ok if someone got shot in the head, just as long as you didn't see the bullet come out the other side. Crazy, right? I don't ever remember having to deal with a preteen as a projectile, but I doubt it would fly (wakka wakka). If the stars were aligned though and we were able to get it printed, we'd have to remove the actual organs as well as tone down the red of the blood. In my infinite editorial wisdom, I probably would have suggested that the Mauler twins be given blue blood, which would have gone a long way to making the scene more Marvel-acceptable.

KIRKMAN: Zzzzzzzzzzz.

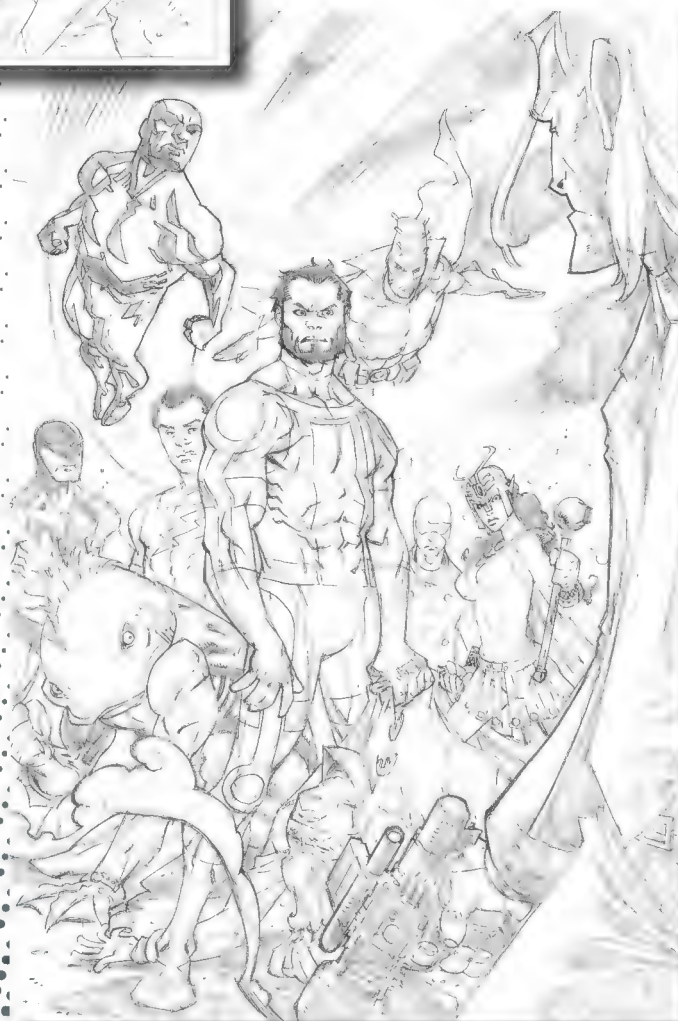


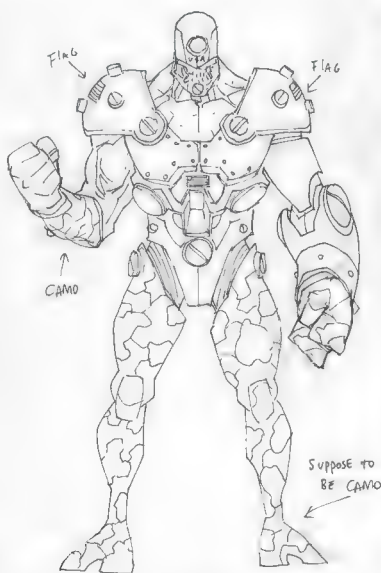


KIRKMAN: Pencils for the Cecil back-up in issue 50, which was inked by Cliff Rathburn and colored by Kelsey Shannon.

OTTLEY: It was so nice to finally work with Cliff Rathburn again, last time was issue 31. He started inking again continuously starting with issue 52 and it's been great because now I can only concentrate on pencils and really nail all these deadlines AND the book looks better. It's a win win.

KIRKMAN: Cliff is the man... we should have gotten some comments from him.





KIRKMAN: Man, I swear I've never even SEEN this redesign of the Reanimen... weird. And Ryan's redesign of Angstrom Levy... I really wanted him to look more like a super-villain upon his return. Ryan did a great job of that.

OTTLEY: Yeah, I need to work on my design of mechanical things. I'm not too happy with the robots, Cory's original versions were much better. I'm happy with how Angstrom turned out, though.

NEW
ANGSTROM





KIRKMAN: Cory's design for Kid Omni-Man... which y'know, I should point out I originally wanted to call him, the uninspired name... OMNI-BOY. I'm glad Cory suggested Kid Omni-Man... I like that name much better.

OTTLEY: I laughed when you told me what Cory suggested, not only can he design awesome stuff but he can come up with some killer names. I think Atom Eve, Dupli-Kate, and Multi-Paul were all his right? Too awesome!

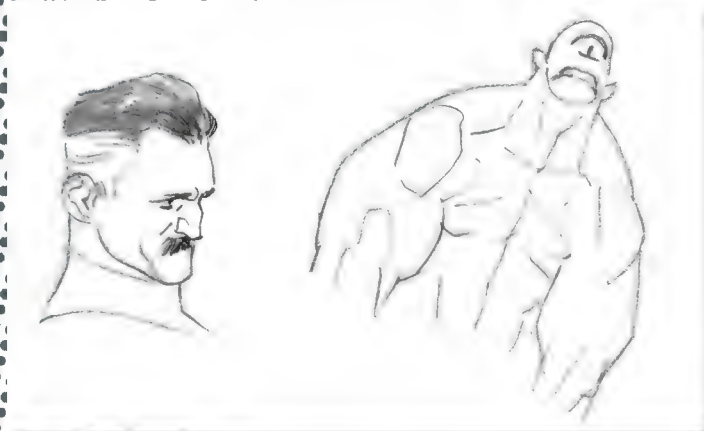
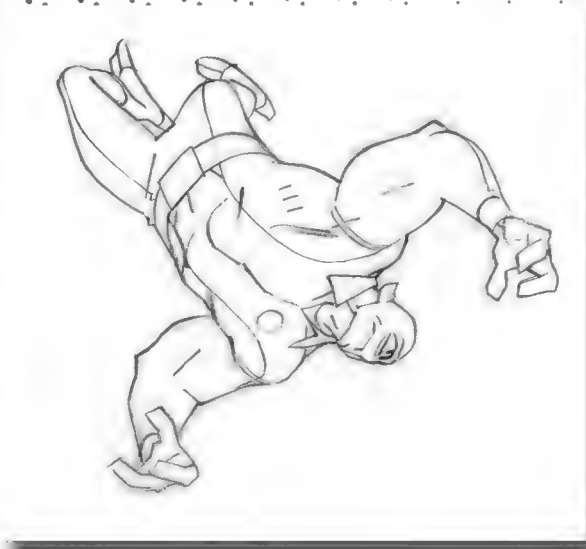
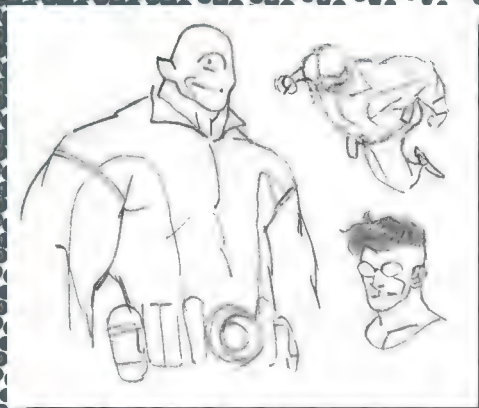
KIRKMAN: Atom-Eve and Robot were his. Dupli-Kate and Multi-Paul are extra stupid... those are mine. PowerPlex, Rex Splode... see, there's a pattern.



KIRKMAN: I'll leave you with some sweet Cory Walker sketches. He did this stuff for his daily sketchblog, which you can all find at corenthal.blogspot.com

OTTLEY: All I gotta say is RAD!







KIRKMAN: Hey, Cory drew Anissa, sweet! When are we going to see her again? Soon, I hope. Anyway, that's it for this sketchbook section. I hope you enjoyed it. I'll see you all back here for Volume 11, right? RIGHT?!

OTTLEY: See you soon!

SITTERSON: Peace in the Middle East!



MORE GREAT BOOKS FROM ROBERT KIRKMAN & IMAGE COMICS!



THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN

VOL. 1 TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$14.99



BATTLE POPE

VOL. 1: GENESIS TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-572-8
\$12.95

VOL. 2: MAYHEM TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-529-2
\$12.99

VOL. 3: PILLOW TALK TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-677-0
\$12.99

VOL. 4: WRATH OF GOD TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-751-7
\$9.99

BRIT

VOL. 1: OLD SOLDIER TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$14.99

VOL. 2: AWOL
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$14.99

CAPIES

VOL. 1: PUNCHING THE CLOCK TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$17.99

CLOUDBALL

GRAPHIC NOVEL
\$6.95



INVINCIBLE

VOL. 1: FAMILY MATTERS TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-711-1
\$12.99

VOL. 2: EIGHT IS ENOUGH TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-347-2
\$12.99

VOL. 3: PERFECT STRANGERS TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-915-5
\$12.95

VOL. 4: HEAD OF THE CLASS TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-440-2
\$14.95

VOL. 5: THE FACTS OF LIFE TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-554-4
\$14.99

VOL. 6: A DIFFERENT WORLD TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-579-7
\$14.99

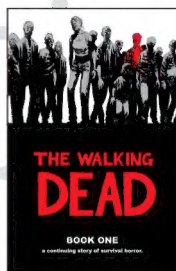
VOL. 7: THREE'S COMPANY TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$14.99

VOL. 8: MY FAVORITE MARTIAN TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5
\$14.99

VOL. 9: OUT OF THIS WORLD TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-827-9
\$14.99

VOL. 10: WHO'S THE BOSS TP
ISBN: 978-1-60706-013-0
\$16.99

ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 1 HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-500-1
\$34.95



ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 2 HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-594-0
\$34.99

ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 3 HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-763-0
\$34.99

ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 4 HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-989-4
\$34.99

**THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE
INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE TP**
ISBN: 978-1-58240-831-6
\$12.99

REAPER

GRAPHIC NOVEL
\$6.95

TECH JACKET

VOL. 1: THE BOY FROM EARTH TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-771-5
\$14.99

TALES OF THE REALM

HARDCOVER
ISBN: 978-1-58240-426-0
\$34.95

TRADE PAPERBACK
ISBN: 978-1-58240-394-6
\$14.95

THE WALKING DEAD

VOL. 1: DAYS GONE BY TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-672-8
\$9.99

VOL. 2: MILES BEHIND US TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-413-4
\$12.95



VOL. 3: SAFETY BEHIND BARS TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-487-5
\$12.95

VOL. 4: THE HEART'S DESIRE TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-530-8
\$12.99

VOL. 5: THE BEST DEFENSE TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-612-1
\$12.99

VOL. 6: THIS SORROWFUL LIFE TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-684-8
\$12.99

VOL. 7: THE CALM BEFORE TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-828-6
\$12.99

VOL. 8: MADE TO SUFFER TP
ISBN: 978-1-58240-828-6
\$14.99

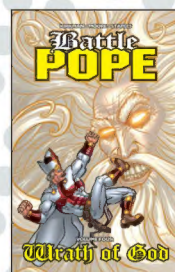
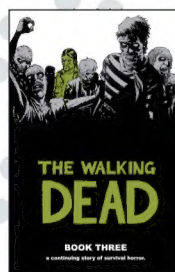
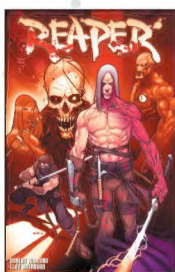
VOL. 9: HERE WE REMAIN TP
ISBN: 978-1-60706-022-2
\$14.99

BOOK ONE HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-619-0
\$29.99

BOOK TWO HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-759-3
\$29.99

BOOK THREE HC
ISBN: 978-1-58240-825-5
\$29.99

BOOK FOUR HC
ISBN: 978-1-60706-000-0
\$29.99



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST COMIC BOOK STORE, CALL:
1-888-COMIC-BOOK



Ever since Invincible's father, Omni-Man revealed himself to be an alien conquerer bent on taking over the Earth, Invincible has been working for the Global Defense Agency, led by Cecil Stedman. He's been fighting their fights, defeating their enemies, he's been a good soldier, but now something has changed.

Invincible can no longer follow their orders unquestioned. Now he finds himself up against the very organization he's been working for! This won't be pretty...



This volume collects
issues 48-53 of the
Eisner Nominated series.



image

IMAGECOMICS.COM

ISBN: 978-1-60706-013-0